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THURSDAY, MAY 8TH, 2014

MAKING A DIFFERENCE
LOCAL NEWSPAPER WEEK • 12-18 MAY • FEATURE BEGINS ON PAGE 14

'I'D LIKE TO SEE IT BEING TALKED ABOUT MORE OPENLY'

How organ donation changed the life of a local businessman

A well-known local businessman has told The GEM why he supports a new organ donation law that will come into force next year.

Jay Patel, 60, is a familiar face in the Vale, as the owner of Downs Filling Station, on the A48 near Cowbridge, for over 30 years.

Having been diagnosed with a kidney cyst in 2004, Jay developed kidney problems that required treatment by dialysis.

It meant that three times a week, every week, Jay would attend the University Hospital of Wales for his four-hour-long dialysis sessions. It was an arduous regime.

In August 2011, after more than five years on the transplant waiting list, Jay received the encouraging news that a kidney, which was a good match, had been found for him. Jay said: " It was fantastic. I'd been in poor health for many years and was so pleased that I was going to receive a new kidney. I feel really blessed and grateful. It's made a huge difference to my life."

Raised in Uganda, Jay came to Wales with his family in 1973 when he was 19 years old, as a result of the expulsion of Asians under the dictatorship of Idi Amin the previous August.

His family came to Cardiff and took over the filling station business some seven years later.

Jay married his wife Jaysanti in 1978 and a couple of years later they settled in Cowbridge.

As a British Asian with Hindu background, Jay is well aware of the shortage of black and minority ethnic organ donors. His new kidney came from a white male, whose family chose to remain anonymous.

He explained: "There's nothing in the Hindu religion that prevents people from donating organs, or in any other religion for that matter.

"My wife was willing to give me one of her kidneys, but she wasn't a suitable match for me.

"I think people's unwillingness to donate is due to misguided concerns about the after-life. I can't agree with that and think you need to focus on the life you have now.

"A lot of people in Wales and the rest of the UK are suffering, needing new organs.

"I'm glad the Welsh Government is bringing in a new organ donation law.

"More needs to be done, especially within the ethnic community, to raise awareness of organ donation and encourage people to support donation.

"I'd like to see organ donation being talked about more openly. Cancer was once a taboo but public attitudes have been changed over recent years. I'd like to see that happen for organ donation."

New organ donation legislation will come into force in Wales on December 1, 2015.

Thirty-five people died last year in Wales waiting for an organ donation. The new legislation aims to create the conditions for an increase in the number of organ donors through the introduction of an 'opt-out' system.

Under the new system you will be able to be a donor by either registering a decision to opt in, or by doing nothing at all – in which case consent will be deemed given. Those who don't wish to be a donor, will also be able to register that they want to opt-out.

For more information on issues surrounding organ donation, go to www.organdonationwales.org

ABOVE: Jay at his petrol station on the outskirts of Cowbridge.

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Cowbridge and Llantwit will be focus of rural transport bus trial

A NEW £100,000 Welsh Government trial scheme to improve rural bus transport will be set up in the Cowbridge and Llantwit Major area.

The plan is set to be discussed at next Monday's meeting of the Vale Council cabinet (May 12).

Assuming the cabinet vote to move forward with the scheme, the £100,000 will be spent as follows:

- £49,000 on a 12-seater vehicle.
- £10,000 on running costs.
- £17,000 for the driver.
- £20,000 on software to make the most efficient use of routes and passenger pick-ups.

The remaining £6,100 is allocated for vehicle maintenance and marketing.

The aim of the project is to – *coordinate the transport for mainstream school pupils eligible for free transport, for those persons transported by social services (on contracted vehicles), for those transported to day centres (on fleet vehicles), and for those wishing to gain access to exercise classes due to GP referral.*

The project also aims to provide extra community transport services.

It wants to see whether transport planning software will allow the services to be carried out in an efficient and effective manner.

Specific schools and services have already been identified by council officers to enter into the trial and the pilot will be operated around the Llantwit Major and Cowbridge areas.

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Readers' Letters

Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, Don John, at Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL or email gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

IMPORTANT: We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. ***Letters and e-mails MUST include full address and a contact telephone number***. An email address alone is not sufficient! We will (in certain circumstances) protect a writer's identity, if requested.

'Scrap LDP policy'

THE release of the candidate sites has highlighted that the LDP process is not fit for purpose and should be called in by the Welsh Government and scrapped.

The 'free-for -all' policy has brought out many landowners keen for an easy profit and has blighted the lives of a high number of Vale of Glamorgan residents.

Although not an advocate of the Human Rights Act, this I feel is a true case for it.

It is not just one or two local communities or a couple of 'nimbys' that find themselves on the edge of potential major planning proposals – nearly every village has been blighted by having, in many cases, multiple 'candidate sites' on their doorstep.

We need to have a grown up and open debate on the whole process, and need to start with some 'realistic' projections of future housing and employment requirements for the Vale.

Ann Barnaby,
St Athan.

'Don't blame UK Government for foodbanks'

I REFER to Mr G Smith's letter in The GEM asking why have foodbanks increased since the Labour party lost office, and blaming the present Government for the increase.

He admits there were 41,000 people using foodbanks when Labour were in power. What he forgets to mention is the mess the previous Government left us in; they left our borders wide open and they gave a lot of money away to the unemployed so the latter would be grateful and vote them back into power.

This Government had to cut back on this because we could not afford it, so this left a lot of people with less to spend and the damage was done.

The collapse of the banks didn't help. This put more strain on the then Government and caused a slump in the economy which we are starting to come out of thanks to the Government's policies.

The foodbank system is open for abuse. The voucher system can be abused by some that call in to more than one food bank in a month and get more than their entitlement. I also believe foodbanks can be a first port of call for some people coming into the country.

Mr B Kirke, Barry

Cowbridge Town worthy heirs of the Corinthians

Congratulations to Cowbridge Town FC on winning the Barry Cup for the first time. In the 1940s, I founded Cowbridge Corinthians FC, predecessors of Cowbridge Town FC.

I was mainly encouraged, I remember, by my good friend Bill Lewis, a fellow member of Cowbridge YMCA youth centre, who served for many years with distinction in the Fire Service.

Alas, the Corinthians never won any trophies, but made up for their lack of success with their tremendous enthusiasm.

They would have been greatly chuffed to see their heirs doing so well.

Derek G Thomas,
Porthcawl.

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Why let sleeping (LDP) dogs lie?

RECENT GEM items about Colwinston highlight the rural Vale crisis: we appear to have a Labour-dominated council seeking to maximise housing development in the villages. This is hardly a surprise given that Labour has no rural seats, but has key ones in the urban south-east.

What is a surprise is the inertia of the Conservative opposition on the Vale Council. This is in stark contrast to opposition parties in neighbouring Cardiff, which are vigorously challenging the LDP of the Labour council.

Here the Conservative opposition members seem to have a philosophy of let sleeping LDP dogs lie: keep their heads down, nod through Labour's premature planning approvals in a series of Vale villages – and hope by the council election in 2016 that Conservative voters in the south-east will have forgotten the previous Conservative council's proposed massive LDP house-building schemes in their areas.

The Conservatives should start standing up for the rural Vale, otherwise they may find in May 2016, rural Conservative voters as unforgiving as those in the south-east in May 2012, which resulted in the Conservatives being thrown out.

Standing up for the rural Vale means siding with villages which have received disproportionate housing allocations from Labour; resisting the various planning approvals Labour is pursuing to maximise housing in the rural Vale; supporting the case for the Llandow site to be developed; and ending their support for the abolition of settlement boundaries around villages they are meant to be representing. A good test of Conservative commitment to the rural Vale is the 'Colwinston test'.

Here is a classic Vale village in uproar over the prospect of the Labour council railroading through a developer's application to build 62 houses on an LDP allocated site before Colwinston residents' opposition can be considered by the LDP inspector: disproportionate development arising from democratic deficit.

So which way for the Vale Council Conservative group when this application comes to the planning committee: back the despoliation of Colwinston, or stand behind the village in its spirited defence of its character and way of life?

Paul Jeremy,
Ystradowen.

Greenfield, excuse for a red light...

I WANT to respond to the letter from Mike Carney headed 'LDP – Why not Llandow Newydd?' in The GEM, May 1.

The judicial review did not rule against Llandow Newydd... Mike asks why the development has no support with the planners, and I have a few thoughts on that subject.

A council official stated in 2007 that '*Current government guidance is that a new settlement is a last resort*'.

The consultants advising the council regarding options took a different view and wanted Llandow included as an option, but they were eventually dismissed by the council.

Government guidance at that time did state: "*New settlements on greenfield sites are unlikely to be appropriate in Wales,*" but went on to say that they *"should only be proposed where such development would offer significant environmental, social and economic advantages over the further expansion or regeneration of existing settlements."*

I have no doubt that the latter part of this guidance has greater significance than a misinterpretation of the first part.

I understand officials now emphasise the greenfield argument but given the amount of greenfield sites in the draft LDP, that excuse also lacks credibility.

The development of Llandow Newydd would produce many advantages, including a new highway link, more choice for home buyers, less pressure on already over-developed urban communities, and a new railway stop – reducing the need for increased car journeys.

Philip Clarke,
councillor for Rhoose.

'No ruling against Llandow Newydd'

WE need to nail the growing myth that a judicial review ruled against the development of Llandow Newydd (*LDP – Why not Llandow Newydd', Mike Carney, The GEM, May 1).*

Referring to the land, Mr Carney includes a statement in his letter as follows, "the fact that it was ruled against in a judicial review" – it wasn't!

I suspect Mike has been misinformed, along with several others – since Mr Justice Beaston did not rule on the merits of the development potential of this site.

He did rule on grounds put forward by the developer of bias; predetermination; conflict of interest; inadequate consultation, and misleading information.

In part of the legal judgement, the judge categorically makes the point: *"Planning judgement is a matter for the relevant planning authority, not the court"*.

With the overdue and growing public interest in the development of Llandow Newydd, it is worth taking some time to read this judgement.

It was about behind the scenes events, and not whether this site should, or should not be developed.

Dennis Harkus
FocusBARRY member

Two reasons why!

THERE has been a vast amount of correspondence recently concerning Llandow Newydd. The simple answer as to why the council planners will not agree to the proposal is summed up in two linked words – 'money' and 'fracking'.

Mike Welford, St Athan.

Library proposals are 'disgusting'

THE Vale Council have now outdone themselves by considering using volunteers to run several libraries.

Library services across the Vale are being cut, with shorter working hours and fewer staff.

I have no doubt there are good people willing to offer their services to help run these libraries, but it is a disgusting proposal to even be considered.

DJ Radford,
Barry.

Put off by the 'hidden agenda'

I WRITE to respond to the interesting GEM letters on the LDP. Now that the consultation for the plan and its alternatives is over, it will be for the experts and our council representatives to consider what has to be a daunting task.

Perhaps it is an opportune time to analyse the arguments in The GEM letters for and against development of a road and housing at Darren Farm.

The objectors have put forward a diverse and technical argument against development, mainly based upon the 2003 application notes.

Those for have this time been concerned about the need for, in particular, housing that is owner-occupied and cannot be taken for investment.

I thought both positions were well represented and, as you would expect, more organised, numerous and louder for those against – whereas those for seem to be individuals expressing social concerns.

My verdict is in favour of those for – as their views are honestly based on social needs.

I particularly liked the comment that having a church (St Brynach's) within walking distance is an important link to the community's social life and wellbeing.

What swayed me away from those against, was confirmation of a hidden agenda of 'not in my backyard' syndrome, whereas I believe to the contrary, that property values will be enhanced as the proposed alternative development has great merit.

What confirmed my verdict was that the Llysworney by-pass and Llandow settlement argument was submitted by those against. That is shoddy!

Cynthia Willems,
Cowbridge.

Sign of the times?

I LIKED the little piece in The GEM from Jeremy Atkinson referring to a sign reading *'Road Closed Ahead Accept for Access.'*

ACCEPT? Surely this should read 'except? It seems that not only are our highways people out to confuse us, they do not have a very good knowledge of the English language.

In an effort to promote good English language, maybe those that prepare and erect signage should first make sure that the language is correct before they confuse us!

Alison Dickinson,
Coychurch.

CALLING ALL EX-BEVIN BOYS!

BARRY branch of the Royal British Legion would like to talk to any ex-Bevin Boys to help produce a tribute to this shoddily-treated group of young men whose efforts have only just begun to be recognised.

If anyone can help, please contact me on 07914 382977. Your help will be much appreciated.

Bob Wheatley, ***Chairman,***
Royal British Legion, Barry.

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL MAY 15)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
08 Thur	01.11	7.4	13.57	7.3
09 Fri	02.33	7.4	15.17	7.6
10 Sat	03.43	7.7	16.18	7.8
11 Sun	04.38	8.2	17.09	8.3
12 Mon	05.25	8.6	17.49	8.8
13 Tues	06.06	9.1	18.31	9.3
14 Wed	06.47	9.5	19.11	9.7
15 Thur	07.29	9.7	19.54	9.9

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

E-Mail Contacts: ***gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk • gemsales@tindlenews.co.uk*** **• Tel 01446 774484**
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ATLANTIC COLLEGE WAS VENUE FOR ROYAL TRIP – BUT PEOPLE LINED LLANTWIT STREETS

Confusion over royal visit leads to frustration

Report by **TIM CHAPMAN**

CONFUSION reigned in Llantwit Major on Wednesday, April 30, as people turned out for a glimpse of the Queen – little realising the town was never a part of her official schedule.

On April 24, The GEM reported that the visit was to Atlantic College at St Donat's. It was an opportunity for her to view the facilities and make a visit she had not been able to undertake during her Diamond Jubilee year, when the college was celebrating its 50th anniversary.

Some news media (*not The GEM*) had quoted Llantwit Major in connection with the royal visit – possibly because it is the nearest town to Atlantic College.

As a result, crowds, including large numbers of children, waited in vain along Boverton Road and into the old part of town.

Michael Alan Cridland contacted The GEM and expressed the disappointment felt by those who lined the streets.

"After hearing in the news that The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh were coming to visit Llantwit Major, there was excitement among the good people of our ancient and venerable town.

"We realized that the purpose of her visit was to visit Atlantic College – however, we thought she would drive through the town, to the cheers of the enthusiastic kids who were lined up.

"How disappointed they were...What a shame that these children did not experience the thrill of a royal visit. Surely this could have happened?"

Some people, unaware that the town was not part of the Queen's visit, vented their frustrations on Facebook.

One commenter said: "Well u (sic) won't see us at Buck House when we go to London."

Another was concerned about the disappointment for children. "Bored, fidgety children sat along the road, for nothing..."

On a more pleasant note, the people who waited outside St Donat's Castle were afforded a good view of the Queen.

Photographer Derek Naylor said: "As the Queen came out of Atlantic College in her limousine, there were about 40 people, including children, outside the gates. The car slowed down and the Queen smiled and waved."

To see pictures of the Queen's visit to Atlantic College, turn to pages 22 and 23.

Poetry in the air during a stroll in the Vale sunshine!

ABOVE; Pictured are Rotary president Nick Broekstra, Jane Hutt AM, Katrin, Mayor Gwen Baty, Angharad, Harry Heller and PCSO Hilary O'Callaghan.

IS there anything so delightful as a walk in spring, seeing the lush green leaves, the small flowers, white and yellow, in the hedgerows, hearing birdsong all around you – and feeling the warm sunshine on your back?

The Cowbridge Rotary Club held its annual five-mile fun walk around Cowbridge and a large sum was raised for good causes as people strolled along less-travelled paths around Cowbridge and enjoyed the glorious Vale countryside in the spring sunlight.

"The walk was started by Jane Hutt AM, together with Katrin and Angharad from Cowbridge School's Interact Club. Thanks to the town mayor, Coun Gwen Baty, for providing facilities for the walkers," a club spokesperson said.

No news yet on a Cowbridge Post Office site

by **PHILIP IRWIN**

WHEN and where Cowbridge will get a new Post Office is still unclear, a fortnight after the closure of the Spar store led to a "temporary closure" of the office.

Vale MP Alun Cairns is calling for a "temporary facility" and has repeated his calls to the Post Office to do everything possible to speed up their arrangements to establish one.

***A Post Office spokesperson said**: "We apologise to customers for any inconvenience caused by the temporary closure of Cowbridge Post Office, due to the premises becoming unavailable for Post Office use.*

"We are working to restore the Post Office service in Cowbridge and are in discussions with existing retailers, who have expressed an interest in operating the Post Office service.

"Any change that involves a relocation of a Post Office would be subject to a full public consultation."

Mr Cairns said that the service was vital to individuals and businesses alike.

He told The GEM that there needed to be a temporary facility run by the Post Office itself as soon as possible, while negotiations with a local retailer were being finalised.

He explained: "I have been informed that a temporary subpostmaster has been appointed to run a temporary, outreach Post Office service in the town centre.

"There are delays to the installation of communication lines, but this is a positive step and I will do all I can to speed up the process.

"I welcome the news that negotiations are under way on the permanent solution and hope that a local independent shop is successful.

"I know that the Post Office staff recognise the importance of restoring the facility to the town.

"It is a vital service to individuals, as well as being key to the prosperity of local businesses".

Could cricket return to Wick village green?

THE traditional summer scene of a cricket match on the village green could be returning to Wick after a gap of almost 10 years – if a group of enthusiasts have their way, writes PHILIP IRWIN.

Matt Williams is one of those who is keen to see a revival and he told The GEM: "Cricket has been played in Wick since 1926, when Wick & District Cricket Club was formed.

"Originally cricket was played on the old landfill site near Castle-upon-Alun, and then in 1954 the village green was cleared of debris and bushes and became the home ground.

"Cricket was played on the green for 52 years until, sadly, the club folded in 2006 following many successful seasons playing friendly and league matches".

He continued: "This year, two former players decided to try and re-establish this tradition. The nucleus of an enthusiastic committee has since started to form, and with the generous support of local people (with their many practical skills) and former players, it has excitingly become a reality.

"Work is well under way on restoring the wicket, which is no small task after seven years without maintenance, into a playable surface again".

The intention is to play a small number of 'friendly' matches in the first season; where it goes from there depends on the support the club receives.

The first game at home will probably be played in early June with fixtures continuing until the end of August.

Matt Williams added: "During the time cricket was played in the village, it had a very proud tradition and history, which was central to community activities in Wick.

"Now, with the rejuvenation of the club, some of that sense of community can be restored, bringing together new and former players, supporters and helpers to once again be a part of Wick's unique identity."

He added: "We invite anyone who is interested in either playing, or assisting in the running and support of the club to attend a meeting in the Lamb and Flag on Tuesday May 13, at 7.30pm. No previous experience is required".

Darts league round-up

ON Tuesday, April 29, the programme of league matches for the 2013-2014 season concluded.

The champions Llanharry finished the season unbeaten winning 7-2 against the Edmondes C. The runners up Edmondes B defeated the Old Post Ladies 9-0. In the others matches the Hare and Hounds won 6-3 against the Farmers Arms, the Edmondes A defeated the Star Inn 7-2, while the Highway man were awarded 9 point because the Cross Inn could raise a team. The outcome of these results is that the Edmondes A held on to third spot.

The final league standings are: Llanharry (144 points), Edmondes B (124), Edmondes A (86), Hare and Hounds (84), Edmondes C (80), Highwayman Inn (79), Farmers Arms (75), Cross Inn (71), Old Post Ladies (37), The Star Inn (28).

On Tuesday, May 13, the team captains will play in a knockout competition, the Captain's Cup. These matches are to be played at the Hare and Hounds with the first match starting at 8.30pm and spectators are welcome.

For further information e-mail Paul at cowbridgedarts@gmail.com, up-to-date information can be found on the website: www.darts.apsn.co.uk. It is time to start thinking about next season! Join a team or if a group of you is interested in forming a team (six players minimum) and your local pub is willing to host you, get in touch and register your interest.

PJT

COMMUNITY NEWS

Your local correspondent is
NANCY DAVIDGE
"Tynewydd", Llangan.
(01656) 860303
TREOES, LLANGAN & ST MARY HILL

Burial service

A SERVICE for the reburial of skeletons discovered during the restoration of the St Canna's vestry, took place on Friday, May 2.

It was attended by parishioners from Llangan and further afield. The children's choir of Llangan school played their part in the service.

Three hymns were beautifully performed and as always supported by teachers, deputy head, and Mr Steve Williams, head teacher.

Following the service, the congregation made their way to the rear of St Canna's, close to the area where the bones were discovered.

The service was conducted by Rev Edward Evans, rural dean of Bridgend Deanery.

Coffee morning

ON Saturday morning, May 17 from 10am – 12pm, there will be a coffee morning at St Canna's, Llangan, there will be a variety of cakes to buy, and a raffle with lots of lovely prizes.

This will be an opportunity to meet friends and neighbours to catch up on the local news.

Club outing

YOUNG At Heart club members deserted the village hall on Thursday, May 1 and instead boarded the bus which would take them to the Pughs garden centre in Morganstown, Cardiff.

This was followed by a lunch at a local restaurant. Club member Gwen David celebrated her 93rd birthday two days before the lunch. Once again a big thank you to Anne and Barbara for the surprise trip.

Good wishes go to Marje Adams, everyone at the club is missing her and we all hope she will soon be well enough to join her friends at the club.

May fair

LLANGAN Primary School will be holding a May fair on Saturday, May 17 from 12.30pm – 3.30pm.

There will be lots of interesting things to do, barbecue and refreshments. Face painting and glitter tattoos, bouncy castle, games, and a guest appearance by Olympic medallist Jenny Jones.

Visitors will be able to have a photo taken with Jenny and her medal. It should be a lot of fun.

Rock village

MASSIVE rocks have been placed in front of gates at the entrance to fields on the road leading out of Llangan.

One wonders what will happen when the affected fields need cutting for hay.

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ABOVE: Just some of the rubbish collected by local surfers after the storms.

Surfers get busy to clean up beach

MEMBERS and friends of the Channel Coast surf club, along with environmental charity Surfers Against Sewage, took part in a beach clean recently.

A spokesman said: "This is the third year that Channel Coast and SAS have combined forces to tidy our beautiful local coastline and it was once again a great success. This year's beach clean was brought forward following the run of severe winter storms had notably increased levels of trash littering the shoreline.

"A lot of marine waste had been washed up into the car park after the storm damage at Llantwit Major, which twice saw the local authorities having to reassemble the car park in the space of a month.

"As always, some rather peculiar pieces of trash where found, that were both amusing and worrying at the same time. Aside from the more typical marine litter found such as bottles, cans and the age old favourite car wheel, cigarette lighters seemed to be the most popular offender on this occasion.

"Channel Coast and SAS would like to thank all those who gave up their time."

'Primrose Hill needs your help' SAYS READER

WITH the many letters on other housing developments in the Vale, please don't forget about Primrose Hill.

This is where a proposed housing estate of 79 houses is planned on the left-hand side of the 'Gateway to Cowbridge' – arriving from Cardiff.

The affordable homes are important, but this is a greenfield site within a Special Landscape Area.

The decision has been taken out of the Vale Council's planning department's hands, and will now go to a public inquiry for the inspector to decide.

The Vale Council's planning officers recommended refusal on a number of issues, and the planning committee members agreed unanimously.

So, if you feel passionate about this greenfield site and the future of Cowbridge, please make your comments known.

You can write to the Planning Inspectorate, Crown Buildings, Catheys Park, Cardiff, CF10 3NQ, or on line at *www.planningportal.gov.uk*. Please quote APP/Z6950/A/14/2213031.

Tim Bird
Cowbridge.

Isobel's a winner at Oscars, Cowbridge

ABOVE: Isobel and her family arriving at Oscars to enjoy their meal

OSCARS of Cowbridge have launched their new Summer menu with the inclusion of a dish designed by 'Little Oscar', Isobel Stevens.

Isobel entered The GEM's Children's Choices competition back in February when young readers were invited to tell us their favourite meal with a chance of it going on the Oscars' Young Ones menu.

Children can now choose Isobel's mini meat balls, pasta sauce and garlic bread to enjoy for themselves.

To top it all, Isobel and her family were treated to a meal at Oscars.

University Challenge win put an end to months of keeping quiet!

FOR the Freeland family in Cowbridge, the recent final of *University Challenge* meant that they could finally stop keeping a secret!

As far as TV viewers in Cowbridge were concerned, the team from Trinity College Cambridge was making good progress through the competition – with local boy Richard Freeland a prominent team member.

However, because the long-running show is filmed many months before, Richard's parents, Sue and Kevin, were having to keep a secret – that the team had actually won!

Family members had travelled to the BBC studios in Salford to watch the final stages of the competition, which were filmed over a long weekend.

Richard, in his third year of a four-year maths degree, along with team captain Ralph Morley, Filip Drnovsek Zorko and Matthew Ridley eventually clinched the title with a comprehensive 240-135 victory over Somerville College!

It was the third time that Trinity College had won *University Challenge* – the last occasion was 1991.

Richard, who is studying for his exams at the moment, told The GEM that he had not decided on his future when he graduates. He said that a number of maths graduates look for work in the City of London, but he was not sure he wanted to follow that career path.

BOOK SALE BOOSTS BRITISH LEGION

THE Llantwit Major branch of the Royal British Legion (RBL) has received a donation of £700 raised from the sale of surplus books from MoD St Athan.

The presentation was made by MoD St Athan unit learning and development officer, Mark Casling, who had been the custodian of the books since they had been donated to the unit's library.

Mr Casling said: "We had been donated a number of books which were excess to requirement and were going to be disposed of. At the time, I thought that they would make a welcome addition to our library here at St Athan, so arranged for the books to be delivered.

"However, when 36 large boxes full of books arrived, I realised that our library wasn't big enough to hold them."

After sorting through the books, it was decided that they should be offered to personnel in exchange for a donation to support the RBL. At the sale of the last book the Learning Centre had raised an impressive £700, which they were delighted to present to the RBL, Llantwit Major Branch.

RBL representatives Mr Roger Elliot, Mrs Heather Fox and Mrs Maureen Geary-Andrews received the money on behalf of their branch.

RBL welfare representative, Mrs Fox said: "The Royal British Legion helps the whole Armed Forces community through welfare, companionship and representation, as well as being the nation's custodian of Remembrance. This much-needed donation will go to providing this support and we are grateful to everyone at St Athan who has contributed."

Senior citizens

COWBRIDGE Senior Citizens' Group's next meeting is on May 15 at 2pm, in the usual venue, and there will be a speaker.

The group's next trip will be on May 20, when members will be travelling to Evesham and the Blosson Trail.

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Regular four-ball totals an amazing 341 years at club!

Golf veterans: Gwyn, Fred, Lyn, and Dave.

A VERY welcome sight, at least twice a week, at St Athan Golf Club are four veteran members of the club who are known locally as the 'mechanised brigade'.

Fred Morgan and Lyn John both 84 years of age, Gwyn Evans, 85 and the spritely Dave Roberts, at 88, all enjoy their regular 9-hole matches played off the seniors' tees.

Fred, formerly a crane driver, is one of the original members of the club, joining in 1976, the year the club was established as RAF St Athan Golf Club. He has seen the club evolve from its infancy and throughout the transition period when the members voted to drop the 'RAF' from its name.

Fred is well-known by all sections of the club, particularly the juniors; waving to all as he zips around on his golf buggy has earned him the nickname 'The Pope'.

Lyn was posted to RAF St Athan as a Squadron Leader, taking up membership in 1983 and quickly becoming officer in charge of the club for a period. Lyn's vast knowledge and excellent memory has been instrumental in overcoming several difficulties that arose during the period of becoming a members' club.

After serving 47 years and seven months in the Royal Air Force, Lyn retired but continues to reside at his home in St Athan village.

Gwyn, a local farmer joined the club in 1984 and on numerous occasions has assisted the greens staff by loaning farm machinery. Gwyn ensures he still enjoys an occasional round of golf with his wife Elizabeth – usually when the other three aren't available but generally to keep in Liz's good books!

In 1987, Dave joined the golf club and, being another local farmer fitted into the group immediately. As the eldest, it has been left to him to set the example and ensure the other three always behave. Not an easy task when the 19th hole has such a magnetic attraction, especially in wet, windy and cold conditions.

The mechanised brigade come into their own in the clubhouse, enjoying the banter from other members but giving 'as good as they get' – after all they've been there, done that!

Fred, Lyn, Gwyn and Dave are hopeful that they will continue playing golf for many more years and they all look forward to a celebratory game on reaching the combined age of 350 years. St Athan Golf Club members are extremely proud and have the utmost respect for these four amazing characters; their commitment to the club and their friendship to others is a credit to each of them.

St Athan Golf Club caters for green fee players but particularly welcomes new social and playing members. *For further information contact the Club Manager 01446 751043.*

Carol Morgan

Points galore for bowlers

LLANTWIT MAJOR bowlers completed their first week of serious competition with two wins amassing over one hundred shots in both matches.

Llantwit Major, holders of the Munro Cup, played their first game on Wednesday in defence of their title with a convincing win against a weakened Cadoxton side, 101-33.

Charles Hiscock's rink dominated from the outset, winning all but four ends with Fred Pike giving them a good start and skipper Charles bowling some good take out shots to win by 26 shots.

Steve Booker's rink had the tightest match starting well with Cadoxton coming back to within two shots of Llantwit's score - this was mainly due to Cadoxton's third having a good game to restrict the scoring. Llantwit scored five on the final end to win by seven shots.

Eric Sparks' rink gave nothing away, holding Cadoxton on four shots for six ends then on five shots for eight ends to win comfortably by 19 shots.

Neville Young's rink combined well keeping Cadoxton down to four shots until the 15th end; a score of three by Cadoxton on the final end reduced the deficit to 15 shots.

On Saturday Llantwit travelled to Cefn Cribwr for their Carruthers Cup game, winning the game 106-57.

With three players withdrawing at the last minute the rinks had to be reshuffled.

Charles Hiscock's rink were again the top scorers - after being two shots down on the first end Llantwit took control restricting the opposition to winning only another five ends while L;antwit made some big scores of five and seven shots to win by 25 shots.

Neville Young's rink had a blistering start, being 11 shots up after only eight ends then the wheels came off after Cefn Cribwr went on long jacks eating away at Llantwit's lead and only a good bowl by David Johnes, when the opposition were holding five shots, saved the day with Llantwit scraping home with a draw.

Richard George's rink took a four shot lead on the eighth end; Cefn Cribwr drew level on the 10th end but Llantwit then forged ahead with Cefn Cribwr only managing to win two of the last 10 ends. A good win by 17 shots, well done Richard who only came in as a replacement on the day.

Steve Booker's rink had a hard match. Llantwit won five ends to go eight shots up on the ninth end; Cefn came back to be only two shots in arrears. Llantwit replied taking another four ends to lead by nine shots but Cefn pulled back again to make the game close.

Llantwit scored another three shots to win by seven, with David Post having an excellent game.

NY

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Boys in Orbit on day out in the big city!

NEWS FROM 2ND LLANTWIT MAJOR BOYS' BRIGADE

SIX members of the company section of the 2nd Llantwit Major Boys' Brigade recently enjoyed a day trip to London.

They were accompanied by two of our youngest officers, Jack and Sean Chapman. After travelling by train to Paddington Station, they visited the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, a first for all of them.

They ascended the Orbit (the sculpture) and saw amazing views of both the Olympic Park and of London itself. Although one officer, despite much help, still could not see the London Eye!

After a quick lunch stop at the new Westfield Shopping Centre's food court, they travelled by London Underground to Hyde Park and Marble Arch.

The weather was kind enough for boating on the Serpentine, but with clouds returning, the group headed to the Science Museum in Kensington.

Then it was time to go back to Paddington Station for the train to Llantwit Major. Thank you to Jack and Sean for organising this visit and to the members, whose behaviour was exemplary. We hope to repeat the opportunity again next year.

Mrs D Chapman
(Officer, 2nd Llantwit Major Boys' Brigade)

CHORAL WORKSHOP

THIS Saturday, Cowbridge Choral Society is holding a choral workshop from 10.30am to 4.30pm at Our Lady and St Illtyd Church, Ham Lane, Llantwit Major.

The cost is £5 for the day and will be led by Kate Woolveridge, an experienced vocal practioner.

The workshop will be open to all and contact details are on www.cowbridge.co.uk.

New members are always welcome to join the society, and experience is not essential. Rehearsals take place in the United Reform Church, Westgate Street, every Thursday at 7.30pm.

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Puzzle of the locket found on the beach at Llantwit

by PHILIP IRWIN

A FAMILY on a visit to Llantwit Major beach has been left puzzled after finding a locket placed on rocks near the car park.

Quite simply, the puzzle is this – was the locket lost or placed there as a personal tribute?

Rob Lewis, who lives in Penarth and who now has the locket for safekeeping, told The GEM what happened.

He said: "We found the locket placed on a rock, on the beach near the car park.

"When we looked at it, it had an inscription, saying 'Daddy, You rock, love Gabriella and ****, 19/4/12'."

(*The GEM has left out one name from the inscription, so that the rightful owner can come forward to claim it*).

ABOVE: The mystery locket that was found at Llantwit Beach.

Mr Lewis said that the date was the crucial part, because the family found it on April 19 this year – exactly two years to the day later than the inscription on the locket."

He said: "We were unsure whether it had placed there deliberately, or whether it was lost."

He said that it didn't seem the obvious place to leave a personal tribute, and therefore he was hanging on to the locket in case.

He added: "I can't help feeling there could be a story behind this, and I would love to find out what it is."

Mr Lewis can be contacted on 07799 417577.

LOCAL CHILDREN CELEBRATE THE END OF WORLD WAR TWO!

THE children of Llanfair Primary celebrated the anniversary of the end of World War Two with a street party. "Years 4/5/6 children organised and planned the party as part of their World War Two topic and everybody came dressed in costumes from the era. The children worked very hard in order to make the day a wonderful success and a great time was had by all!" a school spokeswoman reported.

'Llanmaes critics have most to lose'

TO answer D Hartley in last week's GEM, of course the loudest opponents of the proposed Sainsbury's come from Llanmaes. What would you expect? They have the most to lose.

Everyone is well aware of the havoc that an out-of-town supermarket can wreak on local businesses and I, for one, am quite content to look elsewhere for things I cannot get in Llantwit Major, so long as we can preserve the town's atmosphere. It's why I live here.

Two small supermarkets are quite sufficient in my view and, although I would like a to see a fishmonger's in town, I can get all my immediate needs with the present shopping arrangements.

Let's look at it logically, Filco Foods and the Co-op supermarkets are not exactly overrun with customers – full but not too full.

So where are the Sainsbury's shoppers going to come from? Outside the area of course and I have heard a view that they may be attracted into Llantwit Major.

Well, do I venture into Bridgend when shopping at Tesco or Asda? Do I visit Barry from Morrisons?

No to both; so why should we expect anyone to venture into Llantwit Major from Sainsbury's?

Reasonable prices? After a honeymoon period when Sainsbury's prices are low, does one really expect them to stay that way after their in-town rivals have closed? I don't think so.

Quality? Do Sainsbury's outdo Filco or the Co-op for quality of fruit and veg or bread?

I don't think so. Can they outdo the Farmer's Pantry for quality meats? Definitely not.

I think that a Sainsbury's will kill the town centre (with apologies to Annie Payne's reminiscing, also in last week's GEM).

If the planning committee require precedents as evidence, I urge them to look no further than Barry, Bridgend or Newport.

Gerwyn Thomas, Llantwit Major.

Top Draw jumble sale in Llancarfan

Llancarfan Ladies Tuesday Club, which raises funds for charity, has announced that its recent Top Draw jumble sale raised over £450 and with donations received from well-wishers, the final total was over £500.

The ladies of the club wish to thank all their helpers for all their hard work both in getting ready for the sale on the Friday evening and Saturday and, of course, all our sales people on the Saturday afternoon – even the few who collected bags and boxes from the village hall on Monday afternoon when we were let down by a company who had promised to collect.

Donations will be sent to Air Ambulance Arts and Crafts – in Penarth – who work with the soldiers injured in action, and other local charities, **AF**

ABOVE: Barry At War volunteer Paul Tracy helps Vale staff deliver the wartime barrels to the Glamorgan Wartime Heritage Centre, located at Barry Tourist Railway.

Roll out the barrel *for a heritage role!*

CONCRETE-filled barrels that washed up on Barry Island beach following the storms earlier in the year have found a new home – at the Glamorgan Wartime Heritage Centre.

The barrels are thought to have once played a key part in Barry's beach defences. They will now be used as part of a display to illustrate measures taken to protect Barry during the Second World War.

Barry at War Chair, Ade Pitman said: "These may not be the most exciting looking exhibits in our museum, but they are part of Barry's heritage, and as such it's great that they have been saved. We plan now to work closely with Barry Island Historical Society and other heritage groups to develop a fitting display for the barrels that will seek to highlight their significance."

The barrels were donated to the museum by the Vale Council after they were removed from the beach.

X-Factor Lucie makes her Dinas return!

WEST END leading lady and former X-Factor contestant Lucie Jones, will be making a 'return performance' when she takes the stage during the Dinas Powys Music Festival.

In February 2013, Lucie sang with Bethesda Community Choir to a sell-out parish hall.

Festival organisers are hoping she will have the same effect when she returns to join the choir on Monday, May 12 for their 'Gospel Sounds & Hog Roast' evening.

In May 2010, Lucie was signed by Cameron Mackintosh to play Cosette in the West End production of *Les Misérables*, a role she missed out on the previous year owing to commitments to X-Factor.

A festival spokesman said: "Since her last performance with the choir, Lucie has been on a world tour in the Queen musical, *We Will Rock You*.

"Now back in south Wales, she jumped at the chance to do a country-inspired set with the choir."

The following Monday, May 19, the choir will be performing an additional concert at Salem Baptist Church in Beryl Road, Barry.

Tickets for the Music Festival (£10 - which includes the interval hog roast) can also be reserved by calling 029 2051 3401 or at bethesdacommunitychoir @yahoo.co.uk Tickets for the concert in Barry (£5) can be ordered by calling 07760 666372.

Lucie Jones made her name on X Factor.

Primary school points the (IT) way

BARRY ISLAND Primary School, which has won awards for integrating technology into its curriculum, is urging other schools to sign up for Digital 2014, a major digital skills event at the Celtic Manor Resort on June 9.

It is getting behind the free Welsh Government drive to bring together young people, educators and global ICT firms to discuss opportunities for young people as they progress through the education system and into the workplace.

The school's prolific use of technology has resulted in it becoming one of the lead schools for Hwb, the Welsh Government's flagship digital learning platform.

Invite to take part in Llantwit Major fayre – or the carnival

INDIVIDUALS and organisations wanting to get involved in Llantwit Major summer fayre should start getting in touch with the organisers.

The fayre will take place on Saturday, June 21. It is being organised by the local Llantwit Major and Cowbridge Lions who will be supported by the town's event committee.

One of the organisers, Byron Evans, told The GEM: "This year there will be an addition to the summer fayre – a carnival parade through the town. People will be able to take part on foot or by float!

"If people want to take part in the fayre or the parade it will help if they start getting in touch." The contact details are at the end of the report.

The fayre will include a stage event, an entertainment arena, stalls, and displays. The closing date to apply for stalls is the end of May and organisers say they can arrange insurance for stall holders.

There will numerous activities and competitions – such as a 'Big Golf Competition', a scarecrow competition (up to 18 inches, over 18 inches), tug 'o war (village or rugby teams welcome), gymnastics and the Tricky Tykes Terrier Racing team!

It is an ideal shop window for local sports, drama and charitable organisions.

The parade will make its way from the town hall at 11am to the rugby club.

If you are interested in taking part in the fayre or the carnival go to the Llantwit Major and Cowbridge Lions Facebook page, *llantwitmajorandcowbridgelions.org.uk* or visit Llantwit Fair Day on Facebook.

UNION VOWS TO OPPOSE VALE LIBRARY PROPOSALS

REPORT by PHILIP IRWIN

THE Unison union is planning to oppose proposed changes to libraries in the Vale.

Although the Vale Council has said that nothing has been decided yet, and that there will be a consultation period, the union says staff are "alarmed" at the proposals.

The Vale Council is proposing to replace paid staff with volunteers at four of libraries in the Vale - St Athan; Sully; Dinas Powys and Wenvoe.

There are also proposals to reduce the opening hours of the remaining libraries.

Phillip Carter, the Unison branch secretary at the Vale Council, said: "Staff and unions are alarmed at these proposals, which appear to be totally unrealistic and a significant step towards closure.

"Those staff facing the loss of their posts have seen no evidence of how these proposals will be implemented and how our libraries can be adequately staffed by properly trained volunteers. Temporary staff are also due to lose their posts, together with some administration positions.

"Under the proposals other staff will have their hours cut and libraries will only open for six hours on a Saturday with no late opening hours.

"Dedicated library staff have been left shocked and upset as this news emerged before these proposals had been officially discussed at the Vale Council cabinet meeting on Monday, April 28."

The Vale Council has said that Wi-fi and digital services will be extended.

However, Mr Carter still had concerns in this area. He said: "Our libraries are not just used to 'borrow books', for some people they are the only access they have to the internet and they provide a valuable service in educating the young and old.

"They are extremely important in the Government's campaign to get jobseekers back to work by providing workclubs and advice on setting up their Universal Jobmatch accounts.

"A campaign is now building to defend our libraries and the jobs of our librarians. The irony of these cuts is that the Vale Council has very healthy reserves of over £40 million and could well afford to save our libraries and staff if they so wished."

Coun Neil Moore, Leader of the Council, said: "The report considered at cabinet set out a number of important proposals to modernise our library services and ensure they remain a relevant community resource while also recognising the reality of ongoing pressures on Council finances. The proposals seek to protect rather than cut library services and include investment in buildings and services.

"The council has a healthy relationship with the trade unions and are currently in dialogue with all relevant parties on this issue. For this reason, representatives of Unison should be aware that the reserves that they make reference to have already been allocated for specific projects or are provisions for anticipated projects.

"It should also be confirmed that some reserves are Capital monies and cannot be used for wages.

"We are currently operating in a very austere financial climate. This requires us to change the way in which services are being delivered and the review of the libraries service is part of this process.

"No final decision has been made and the library review and the initial proposals have been referred for scrutiny by the Council's Life Long Learning Scrutiny Committee.

"Should any part of the strategy be approved then a process of consultation with both staff and the public will begin. The focus of consultation will be to seek to minimise any implication on jobs and terms and conditions.

"The council has a strong track record in this area and we are confident that by working with staff and the relevant unions this will be maintained."

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Well done to Llantwit RFC!

THE Llantwit Major Town Council would like to say how proud they are of LMRFC for reaching the final of the SWALEC bowl.

The fact that the team lost takes nothing away from the fantastic achievement by the players, coaches and management of the club.

To play in the Millennium Stadium is the dream of all rugby players. It had particular significance as the club is celebrating its 125th year!

Special mention to Marcus Pearce who won 'man of the match'... his father and grandfather both played for the club and would have been extremely proud.

The town came together to support the club, showing we still have a good community spirit in Llantwit Major. An enjoyable day was had by all.

Ruth Quinn,
Town Clerk,
Llantwit Major Town Council.

Llanmaes plant sale

AT Llanmaes Village Hall on Sunday, May 18 (11am-3pm), a variety of bedding plants, vegetable plants, annuals and perennials will be on sale at competitive prices.

There will be a seed exchange, stalls, cream teas and a raffle.

Plant donations will be gratefully received. Please bring along prior to 11am on the morning, or contact a committee member via llanmaesonline.com or call Jackie Wright on 01446 796605.

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Nocturnal bat and moth walk in Llantwit Major

THE Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales is holding a guided bat walk around Cwm Colhuw Nature Reserve, just south of Llantwit Major, on May 16.

Staff from the trust will be talking about bat ecology and conservation – using bat detectors to pick up on activity in the grassland and woodland habitats in and around Cwm Colhuw.

They will also be keeping an eye out for other nocturnal wildlife, especially moths. A powerful light trap will be run to attract some of these beautiful nocturnal insects. Anyone interested should meet at 8:30pm in the beach car park. All ages are welcome but a torch and sturdy footwear are essential as the walk will be finishing after dark and some warm clothing and insect repellent is recommended.

Bad weather may cause a cancellation at short notice so check www.welshwildlife.org/events for more information,

Or you can email the trust's conservation officer, Vaughn Matthews at: v.matthews@welshwildlife.org.

WHAT'S ON - *in brief*

Shadows Club

MAY 13, Penarth Conservative Club, Stanwell Road (029 2030 9979); South Wales Shadows Club's meeting, 8pm, usually £3. All are welcome.

Plaid surgery

RESIDENTS are invited to an advice surgery by Couns Dr Ian Johnson, Steffan William, Nic Hodges and Shirley Hodges, joined by Steve Blakeman, Marilyn Brown and Barry Plaid Cymru team at The Community Room, The County Library, King's Square, Barry, from 11am until 12 midday on Saturday, May 10. No appointments necessary.

Become a life saver

WELSH Hearts charity is holding free one-off training for two hours once a month. It starts Monday, May 19 at The Bear Hotel, Cowbridge at 7pm-9pm.

Contact Welsh Hearts on 02920 786521 or email fundraising@welshhearts.org.

BRIDGE

LATEST results from the Vale of Glamorgan Bridge Club are as follows:

WBU Celtic Sims on April 28, first: Tony Ratcliff and Mark Roderick (67.26 per cent); second: Anne Hughes and Lou Edwards (58.93); third: John Henson and Geoff Tinkler (58.63).

Witches of Eastwick

SUKI (Sian Owen) Jane (Llinos Lee) and Alex (Debbie Apollonio) are the fabulous Witches of Eastwick – who conjure up a man who has everything they desire – but some of their desires are a little dark, so these evil traits show themselves in the form of Darryl Van Horne, played by Ian Scott.

The show is at the Paget Rooms, Penarth on May 14–17 at 7.30pm.

Tickets are available from Brian Gardner on 029 2071 2260, at Tenovus 23 Windsor Road, Penarth, Email: ticketsecretary@pods-penarth.org and www.pods-penarth.org.

The golden daffodils are Gileston's competition legacy

RIGHT: Irena Wasilewska and Geoff Nicholls admiring the springtime display of daffodils

THE chairman of the Vale of Glamorgan Best Kept Village Competition recently paid a surprise visit to Gileston, winners of the 2013 competition.

Village resident Geoff Nicholls was proud to show Irena Wasilewska around the village to see the 5,000 daffodils they had bought and planted with some of the prize money.

Irena said: "It would have taken a lot of hard work to plant all these daffodils, but the result is there for all to see – a wonderful, golden display."

For further information and an entry form for this year's Vale of Glamorgan Best Kept Village competition, contact Carole Alexander on 07751372537.

Oliver and Samuel Long playing hide and seek among the daffodils

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Wales is best of British when it comes to drawing visitors

WALES is outperforming Britain as a whole in terms of visitor numbers, with the Great Britain Tourism Survey figures showing that British residents made 9.93 million visits to Wales in 2013 – 3.4 per cent up from 2012.

Many of those visitors came to the Vale of Glamorgan to enjoy the stunning Heritage Coast. The National Trust now attracts members and visitors to Dyffryn House, who also enjoy surrounding facilities and attractions, including Cowbridge, Llantwit Major and the rural Vale.

This month, we are celebrating the second anniversary of the Wales Coast Path which takes in the Vale of Glamorgan coastline. Thanks to Welsh Government funding, the Coast Path will be accessible all around the coast after it took a battering with the New Year heavy tides.

Barry Island continues to thrive – with a range of attractions – the fantastic beach, newly-renovated Coast Path from the Old Harbour and a second access road now being developed.

Festivals

NOW is the time to highlight the festivals taking place in the Vale of Glamorgan over the coming weeks ,which will all attract visitors from far and wide, starting with the Vale of Glamorgan Music Festival.

This renowned Festival opens today, Thursday May 8, at Penarth Pier Pavilion; with concerts over the next fortnight at Vale venues such as Dyffryn House, Fonmon Castle, Ewenny Priory.

Cardiff venues include BBC Hoddinott Hall, St David's Hall and the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama.

This year, the festival will pay tribute to the composer John Tavener, who passed away as plans were being made by John Metcalf, the Festival's Artistic Director to mark his 70th birthday here in the Vale.

The composer was featured at one of the early Vale of Glamorgan Festival programmes and his music, alongside other contemporary composers, will be played at concerts over the next two weeks.

For further information visit www.valeofglamorganfestival.org.uk.

I will also be hosting a reception at Barry Island Station later in May to mark the start of the 2014 Vale of Glamorgan Walking Festival, organised by Valeways.

Over the weekend of May 29 – June 1 there will be walks across the whole of the county, suiting all interests and walking choices.

Many of these walks will attract visitors to the Vale from further afield in Wales, and the rest of the UK. *For more information visit www.Valeofglamorganwalkingfestival.org.uk.*

Beyond the Border International Storytelling Festival holds events throughout the year, but this global event originated at St Donat's Arts Centre and will be back again on July 4 at St Donat's Castle, attracting storytellers and visitors from across the world with a Storytelling Symposium on Health and Wellbeing. *See news@beyondtheborder.com.*

The Barry Arts Festival will be held at the end of July/beginning of August, with many events in venues around Barry, so watch out for the programme which will also help to put Barry on the map for visitors as well as local people.

Business boost

AN independent report recently featured the business benefits of the growth in tourism in Wales for the retail, leisure and hospitality sectors. Our Vale Marketing Group plays a major role in boosting the range of tourism businesses with support from the Vale of Glamorgan Council.

This week, I also announced a boost to our economy through increased infrastructure investment in transport and the health service.

This includes an investment of £210 million in a new specialist cancer care centre enhancing the capacity of the Velindre Trust.

It will enable the construction of a brand new hospital to provide cancer patients with access to high quality services comparable with the best in the world.

Vale AM's surgery

THE Vale AM, Jane Hutt, will be holding a surgery this Saturday (May 10) from 10am – 12 noon at Castleland Drop-In Centre, Barry.

ASSEMBLY NOTES

by **Jane Hutt AM** *(Minister for Finance)*

PACT meetings

DINAS POWYS PACT *at Bethesda Chapel, Fairoaks, Dinas Powys, on Monday, May 12 at 7pm.*

BUTTRILLS PACT *at Barry Library, Kings Square, Barry, on Thursday, May 15 at 6.30pm.*

Please note a change to the ***COURT PACT*** *public meeting. It will now be held at The YMCA, Court Road, Barry, on Thursday, May 15 at 7pm.*

Coffee and Chat *will be held at the Green Dragon, Llancadle, on Tuesday, May 20 at 11am.*

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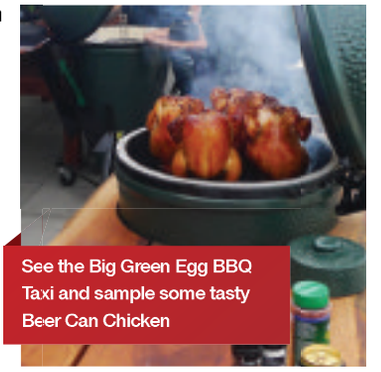

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The trekkers leave Penarth for Peru

MARIE CURIE SUPPORTERS TACKLE INCA TREK IN PERU

ON Friday, May 2, staff at the Marie Curie Hospice, Cardiff and the Vale bade farewell to 17 intrepid supportrs who were heading off to spend 10 days trekking the Inca Trail in Peru.

The group, consisting of local supporters, Marie Curie staff and volunteers, have spent the last 18 months training hard and fundraising to reach their minimum target of £3,750 each.

A spokeswoman said: "We are thrilled to announce that they have raised over £65,000 for the local hospice already, and with money still coming in from sponsorship and events, they are likely to raise a considerable amount of money for Marie Curie.

"The group will spend the next 10 days trekking through the Peruvian jungle, taking in the dramatic landscape and sights of the former Royal Inca – enduring long days of hill climbing and altitude in parts as they reach the famous Machu Picchu ruins. This is a challenge not for the faint hearted and we would like to wish them a safe journey and a big thank you for all their amazing support.

"Also a big thank you goes out to Edwards Coaches, who supplied a coach free to take our group to Heathrow Airport and pick them back up."

Anyone interested in doing something similar should go along to an information evening at the Marie Curie hospice in Bridgeman Road, Penarth, on Tuesday, June 3 at 6pm, for a chance to hear about the exciting new trek to Costa Rica in 2016.

For more information on this trek, or any of are other overseas challenges, call the fundraising office on 02920 426068 or email helen.mulhern@hotmail.co.uk

'Lack of hospital beds is cause of poor ambulance performance' *says an AM*

TEN people suffering from life - threatening conditions living in Bridgend and the western Vale waited more than half an hour for an ambulance to arrive during March, according to Suzy Davies AM.

Mrs Davies, who is a Welsh Conservative Regional AM for South Wales West, said:

"In the Abertawe Bro Morgannwg health board area, which stretches from Swansea to Bridgend, a total of 24 people with potentially life-threatening conditions during March waited more than half an hour for an ambulance to arrive. These are Category A cases which include heart attacks and strokes. In such cases, every minute counts and delays can be literally fatal.

"The target response time for such calls is eight minutes, so waiting more than four times as long has got to have serious repercussions.

"Ambulance response times in Wales are in a mess. In March, just 55 per cent of ambulances arrived within the target time for Category A calls. The target is 65 per cent but that target, which is the lowest in the UK, has only been met once in the past 21 months.

"And the main cause of ambulance delays is a lack of beds in our hospitals. The Welsh Labour Government has cut the number of beds by a fifth over the past decade and the result is A&E departments crammed with patients waiting to be admitted when there are no beds available and outside ambulances are stacked up – as many as 14 at a time, with patients on board whom they are unable to discharge into casualty departments.

"Until the bottleneck in A&E departments is removed by putting more beds into hospitals, the ambulance situation will not improve. Welsh Labour has cut £800m from the Welsh NHS budget over the past three years and you cannot do that without the serious consequences which the people of Wales are having to live with.

"People have already died because of delays in ambulance responses – how many more must be sacrificed before Labour starts spending the money needed to solve these problems?"

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

Lettings agency calls on local landlords to take advantage of ethical pricing

LIVING Quarters Wales, a new lettings agency covering the Vale, is calling on landlords to take advantage of their free rent guarantee insurance and clear pricing structure.

By signing up to free rent guarantee insurance and getting peace of mind from a clear pricing structure, potential landlords can see exactly what they are getting for their money when choosing Living Quarters Wales as their agent.

With over 45 years of property management experience, staff at Living Quarters Wales have adopted an honest and transparent approach that will deliver a first class service to their landlords and tenants.

By choosing one of three clear service options available, landlords will avoid the common practice in the sector of publicised low charges and imposed hidden costs at a later stage.

Newly-appointed Manager Julia Benham said: "I am excited to be running such a promising new venture and look forward to working with landlords across the Vale of Glamorgan.

Finding a lettings agency with such a high ethical focus is extremely rare in this day and age."

Julia Benham from Living Quarters Wales with Paul Roberts, chief Executive of Cadarn Housing Group, the parent company of the new lettings agency.

Living Quarters Wales welcomes questions from landlords with a single property to landlords with large portfolios across the Vale and south Wales.

Contact Julia on 02920 005510, or go to www.livingquarterswales.co.uk to discuss the services we can offer.

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Out and About with The GEM

Historic motor show in Brecon

BRECON Motor Club, in collaboration with The GEM's sister paper, The Brecon & Radnor Express, has announced that a new historic car and motorcycle show is to be held annually in the Brecon area.

The inaugural event on Sunday, August 3, at the Brecon Beacons National Park visitor centre in Libanus, Powys, will raise money for 'The Prince's Countryside Fund,' and celebrates the touring heritage of Brecon and the Beacons.

An optional '40-Mile Guided Scenic Tour' of the Brecon Beacons countryside will be held in the late afternoon for all participants with suitable vehicles.

Entries are invited from the owners of veteran, vintage, classic, sports and prestige vehicles.

Cars, motorcycles and commercial vehicles (including tractors) are also welcome.

For spectators, entry to the event and the visitor centre is free although a small charge for parking is made.

Donations to the 'The Prince's Countryside Fund' will be welcome.

Awards for the 'Best Car in Show' and 'Best Bike in Show' will be made before the close of the event.

Entry forms are available from Mark Weller, the Brecon Motor Club secretary, by email at secretary@breconmotorclub.co.uk or via mobile 07711 885388.

• Tell them you read it in The GEM!

Depp and company fail to Transcend sci-fi flick into a watchable work

THE job of a cinematographer is to make a film look as good as possible, and bring the director's vision to reality.

One of the finest cinematographers working today is Wally Pfister, whose work with Chris Nolan has created some incredible cinematic moments. Stepping out from underneath Nolan, Pfister makes his directorial debut with *Transcendence*.

Johnny Depp plays Will Caster, one of the finest minds working with artificial intelligence. When Will is shot by a radiation-laced bullet, fired by a member of anti-technology extremist group Rift, his body starts to die, but his mind is very much alive.

His wife Evelyn (Rebecca Hall) makes the decision to upload Will's consciousness into a computer so that he may live on, something she is warned by colleague Max (Paul Bettany) may have disastrous consequences – and when Will's consciousness begins to become overly powerful, Max's worst fears may be realised...

The link, and division, between man and technology has been most recently brought to screens smartly and stylishly by Spike Jonze in *Her*, but is a subject matter that has been around for decades, from the one extreme of the murderous Hal in *2001* to the slightly lesser example of murderous sentient robots in *I, Robot*.

Sadly, *Transcendence* finds itself closer to the latter than the former, the intriguing concept and argument of man's reliance on technology and the murky moral question of extending life artificially is wasted in a leaden film that fails to come to life, lacking in narrative propulsion and anything engaging.

For a film about the value of life, it feels strangely lifeless, Jack Paglen's script raising interesting points but failing to expand or resolve these into something worth watching.

Instead, it simply meanders along in first gear with very little in the way of exciting moments or twists and turns; it's very much a Roman road of a film, taking a straightforward route towards a conclusion that peters out.

The themes that Paglen reaches out to are rich and ripe for addressing; how technology can both aid and hinder man, how much power you can grant to a machine, and what happens when technology becomes sentient.

That he only really brushes over these is a waste of time, opting for something a lot simpler and lacking in confrontation.

by GARETH JAMIESON
Follow Screen Talk on Twitter – @GEMScreenTalk

The Rift group, the film's big bad (or, possibly, good), seemingly dislike technology but use it to locate Computer-Will, making them a tad hypocritical, but their aims and intentions are never fully explained, a prime example of how Paglen's intentions don't match up to the actual realisation.

The film also does a good job of wasting a talented cast, Johnny Depp laconically drawling his way through an unspectacular performance that at least is shorn of the fancy dress, bells and whistles of his usual turns, while Rebecca Hall's tormented Frankenstein-like wife seems to spend the entire film questioning just what she's done but without ever doing anything about it.

The likes of Paul Bettany, Morgan Freeman and Cillian Murphy are all fine actors, but here are wasted in roles that require very little of them, in particular the latter two, who are seemingly there to boost the star power of the cast in rather humdrum roles.

The most disappointing aspect of the film is Wally Pfister's direction, which, rightly or wrongly due to his association with Christopher Nolan, feels Nolan-lite. The sweeping shots, the visual composition, even the colouring, feeling like somebody has opted to ape the director's style.

He aims for something epic yet intimate, but falls somewhere between the two; the scope is there in parts, while shots of flowers and dripping water may be artistic but serve little purpose, and in the case of the latter, only make you more conscious of your bladder.

The overriding feeling of *Transcendence* is a wasted opportunity; wasted for Wally Pfister, whose talents will hopefully overcome this poor work, for Jack Paglen whose script lacks punch and depth, and for a cast who can deliver so much better when given something to work with – a shame, as it had the potential for so much more.

VERDICT: Promising so much and delivering so little, *Transcendence* is a film that could and should have been so much better. The cast seem to be running on auto-pilot, the script raises intriguing questions but fails to answer them, and Wally Pfister's direction has more than the air of his old employer Christopher Nolan – a truly botched effort. *Poor*.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: 2001: *A Space Odyssey* (1968), *Wargames* (1983).

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Spring & Summer 2014

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10/5/2014	Saturday	Malvern Spring Gardening Show (Coach Only)	£11.50	£10.50
17/5/2014	Saturday	London Flyer, Sights or London Show (Coach Only)	£15.50	£15.00
24/5/2014	Saturday	Drayton Manor (Coach Only)	£14.00	£13.00
26/5/2014	Monday	Oakwood Park or Folly Farm (Coach Only)	£9.50	£9.00
07/6/2014	Saturday	Stratford Upon Avon	£12.95	£11.95
13/6/2014	Friday	Cotswolds, 4 Day Short Break Weekend	£171.50	£171.50
14/6/2014	Saturday	Oxford City Centre	£14.00	£13.50
21/6/2014	Saturday	Ross on Wye 'Labels' & Gloucester Quays	£11.50	£10.50
28/6/2014	Saturday	Cotswolds Villages – Day Trip	£11.95	£10.95
05/7/2014	Saturday	Street Village & Weston Super Mare	£12.50	£11.50
12/7/2014	Saturday	Worcester	£13.75	£13.00
18/7/2014	Friday	Cheshire, 4 Day Short Break Weekend	£185.00	£185.00
19/7/2014	Saturday	Haverfordwest & St Davids City	£14.00	£13.50
23/7/2014	Wednesday	Royal Welsh Show, Coach Only	£12.00	£11.50
25/7/2014	Friday	Lincoln, 4 Day Short Break Weekend	£159.50	£159.50
11/8/2014	Monday	Norwich & Sandringham, 5 Day Holiday, 4*	£264.00	£264.00
01/9/2014	Monday	Cork Ireland, 5 Day Holiday, 4* Hotel	£355.00	£355.00
3/10/2014	Friday	Cotswolds, 4 Day Short Break Weekend	£171.50	£171.50

Short Break Holidays Summer 2014

Friday 13th June & 17th October 2014. **Cotswolds,** 4 days Friday to Monday. Adults £171.50.

Friday 18th July 2014. **Cheshire,** 4 days Friday to Monday. Adults £185.

Friday 27th July 2014. **Lincoln,** 4 days Friday to Monday. Adults £159.50.

Monday 11th August 2014. **Norwich** 5 days Monday to Friday. Adults £264.

Monday 1st September 2014. **Cork,** Ireland, 5 days Monday to Friday. Adults £355.

Additional Summer, Autumn & Winter dates will be added to our full 2014 programme. Minimum passenger numbers are required, therefore early reservation is essential. Local pickups throughout South Wales.

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'Food poverty is a scandal of our time'

– SAYS CHURCH LEADER

ABOVE: Archdeacon Peggy Jackson

"FOOD poverty is a scandal of our time – although the work of the Foodbank organisation should be applauded," said Archdeacon of Llandaff, Peggy Jackson.

She was proposing a motion at the recent meeting of the governing body of the Church in Wales which supported the work of foodbank organisation, while "deploring the social and economic conditions which have made foodbanks a necessity".

She said the words of the Archbishop of Wales at the opening of a recent local foodbank, "glad to be here, sad to be here", aptly summed up how churches should feel about them and how they should respond to the situation of food poverty.

"It is a scandal of our time that our economically-recovering wealth-creating society should at the same time have created a horrifying gulf between the rich and comfortable, and those we have condemned to a cycle of poverty."

One of the largest operators of foodbanks is the Trussell Trust, whose latest figures show that the number of people receiving help in Wales last year increased by 120 per cent and of those, 65 per cent were people who received only one voucher for one parcel of three days' food.

"Families are forced to approach foodbanks for help as a last resort, when the choice otherwise is between one of the loan sharks, or the family going hungry, " said Archdeacon Peggy.

Singing Aloud in South Africa

CONGRATULATIONS to four Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg pupils; Nel Lewis, Huw Jones, Efa Cray (year-7) and Tanwen Cray (year-9) who wedre chosen to sing with Only Kids Aloud at a festival in South Africa, to celebrate 20 years since the end of apartheid in that country.

Only Kids Aloud performed with singers from South Africa, as well as world renowned artists such as Bryn Terfel.

The choir made national news when a number of youngsters were taken ill with stomach upsets on the flight home. Medics treated some at Heathrow Airport and others were taken to hospital.

All the youngsters who attend school in Barry were back attending lessons the next day on Tuesday, May 6.

FLORAL DISPLAY

MAY is a busy month for Barry Floral Society: On May 13, members and friends will enjoy an afternoon tea, flowers by local florist Alison Bentley of Wenvoe, and a display of arrangements by the society.

On May 20, area chairman Mrs Kathy Lee of Whitland, will entertain the club with her demonstration 'Recycle'.

The meetings will be held at St Nicholas Community Hall, St Nicholas Road, Barry, from 2.15pm. New members welcome.

The Big Welsh Walk launched

CULTURE and Sport Minister, John Griffiths AM, joined walkers on a Ramblers Cymru Big Welsh Walk at Southerndown beach in the Vale for a special celebration – to mark the second anniversary of the opening of the Wales Coast Path and launch the third Big Welsh Walk.

The anniversary also sees the start of the 'Love the Welsh coast' campaign, run in partnership with Natural Resources Wales.

A month-long programme of walks and other events highlight the Wales Coast Path and attract visitors to the coast. Information about the campaign can be found on the Wales Coast Path website (www.walescoastpath.gov.uk) or by using the hashtag #lovethewelshcoast on Twitter.

The Big Welsh Walk consists of hundreds of led walks, run by local Ramblers groups, Lets Walk Cymru groups and partners such as CADW & Wildlife Trusts, which the public can join throughout May. As part of Love the Welsh Coast, many of these walks will take place along the coast path.

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MAKING A DIFFERENCE

LOCAL NEWSPAPER WEEK 12–18 MAY

Making a difference is aim of local press

THIS year's Local Newspaper Week, running from May 12-18, features some strong messages of support from high-profile figures, including Dame Helen Mirren.

Oscar winner Dame Helen Mirren said she was pleased local media published the arts: "Local and regional newspapers play an important part in promoting and sustaining the arts at a local level. They also campaign on behalf of their readers, expose wrongdoing and corruption, and uphold free speech. These are just some of the reasons why I am supporting 2014 Local Newspaper Week."

Former Olympic champion Jonathan Edwards pointed out: "Only the local paper can fully reflect the pride and passion of a community when 'one of their own' achieves something remarkable on the world stage."

TV presenter Richard Madeley insisted: "Readers who keep the faith with their local paper help keep the heart of their communities beating strongly. *Support your local paper*!"

'HOW THE GEM HAS WORKED FOR OUR BUSINESS...'

WE have been advertising with The GEM for the past year. We originally wanted to advertise very specific short-term promotions and events – but the response was so strong that we decided to take it further and use The GEM on a more regular basis, to let people know about the wide variety of services we offer.

As the product is new, it is very easy for us to gauge how effective the advertising has been. For example, over the Easter period, we ran a voucher promoting our afternoon teas.

The response was incredible and the vouchers bring in new customers, who get to try new things and have a really enjoyable visit.

Because of this positive response, we plan to continue our advertising with The GEM and will be running a variety of promotions, some of which will include vouchers.

We cannot recommend The GEM more highly. Jan and the rest of the team offer a very friendly service and help with every stage of the promotion.

Just let them know what you are trying to achieve and they will give you some ideas, take pictures, and fully design your advert.

The Little Blue Deli, Thompson Street, Barry.

'Local press essential for democracy, and a voice for powerless in society'

by DENNIS HARKUS

LOCAL newspapers, such as the Glamorgan GEM, are important in challenging the powerful, reporting news, and providing essential information to the local community.

They can also reflect, and demonstrate, the importance of public action.

With the arrival of social media it would be easy for some to see local journalsim as yesterday's news but that would be a grave mistake.

The news media has the ability to hold power to account, to raise public concerns, and give a voice to the powerless. Local newspapers are a vital part of our democratic process.

I well remember the battle raging about the plan to build a high density housing estate on Cemetery Approach.

At the time, the council, who were to receive a considerable amount of money from the sale of the land, seemed to regard public concern as an irritant, brushing off community anxiety and protest. Despite Freedom of Information requests; a petition of more than 11,000 names; evidence that the land was open space; and many, many, written objections, the council was still determined to discount public opinion.

The planning committee awarded permission through the chair's casting vote before eventually overturning that faulty decision prior to the local elections.

However, all this did not stop the momentum towards a public inquiry.

Public opinion did eventually win the day when the housing developer withdrew from the process weeks before the inquiry.

I believe The GEM and local media played a key role by regularly reporting events, asking questions of the council and the developers, and printing the many letters from members of the public.

JANE HUTT AM

Labour Assembly Member for the Vale of Glamorgan

Working with The Glamorgan GEM for 15 consecutive years as AM for The Vale.

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BARRY TOWN COUNCIL CYNGOR TREF Y BARRI

The Town Mayor of Barry Councillor Claire Curtis would like to thank The Glamorgan GEM for the excellent coverage during her year in office.

"The GEM continues to serve our community with integrity and care"

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN Labour Party would like to thank The GEM for excellent reporting and advertising local news and businesses.

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We appreciate the editorial space provided by The Glamorgan GEM

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post@bromorgannwg.org.uk/www.yfro.org.uk
Pennaeth/Headteacher: Dr Dylan E Jones

The Mayor of the Vale of Glamorgan Council Councillor Margaret Wilkinson wishes to congratulate The Glamorgan GEM on their reporting of local news and community issues and thanks them for their support during her year of office.

Hoffai Maer Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, y Cynghorydd Margaret Wilkinson longyfarch aelodau staff Y Glamorgan GEM ar eu gwaith yn cyflwyno newyddion lleol a materion cymunedol, a diolch iddynt am eu holl gefnogaeth yn ystod ei flwyddyn yn y swydd.

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Tel: 01446 411411
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would like to invite you to the Art and Design Exhibition of A and AS Level and GCSE work which is being held in the Art Block at Cowbridge Comprehensive School, Aberthin Road on Thursday 12th June 2014 from 6pm-7.30pm

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Thanking everyone for their continued support

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

LOCAL NEWSPAPER WEEK 12–18 MAY

Pupils make a difference – and sweep the board!

Pictured are president of the Rotary Club of Porthcawl, Dr Colin Williams and headteacher Mr Ian Bird with the winning pupils.

PUPILS from West Park Primary School, Nottage swept the board at a recent Young Writer competition, organised by the Rotary Club of Porthcawl for schools in the area who were set the task of writing a story with the theme 'what a difference that made to my life'.

The adjudicators were impressed with the high standard of entries, with stories ranging from magic pennies and talking dogs, to earthquakes and the first man on the moon.

The pupils showed the ability to grab the reader's interest and wrote lively and well-paced stories which engaged the reader throughout.

Caitlin Lloyd won first place with a very believable story about a girl who stood up to a group of bullies; her story has gone through to the district competition, which covers most of south Wales.

Second place went to Rhys Jones and third to Mary-Jane Kutkaitis. Owen Hopperton and Milly Edwards were also commended for their stories.

Representatives from the Rotary Club of Porthcawl visited West Park Primary School to present certificates and prizes.

LC

'Publishing our news in The GEM helps to raise awareness of our school in the local community' – SAYS ACTING DEPUTY HEAD

ACTING deputy head of Gladstone Primary School, in Barry, Helen Reilly, who is responsible for liaising with the local media, regularly submits press releases to The GEM with whom the school has a particularly close relationship.

"The links between school and the community are continually evolving, and publishing our news in The GEM on a regular basis helps to raise awareness, within the local community, of the good work that is taking place here at Gladstone," she says.

"The children love to see their faces in the newspaper and we have a board by the main office displaying our recent press cuttings.

"We also have numerous files of cuttings, which not only make interesting reading, but are an informative catalogue of life in Gladstone over the years."

(SEE 'EXCITING TIMES AHEAD' REPORT AND PICTURES ON PAGE 16)

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ANDREW RT DAVIES AM
South Wales Central Region

Congratulates The GEM on serving the community with excellent editorial coverage.

Do you have an issue you would like to raise with Andrew? If so, please call him on 02920 898523 or 01446 775039.

You can also write to Andrew at the National Assembly for Wales, CF99 1NA or get in touch via the links below:

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www.andrewrtdavies.co.uk

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SOLAR SUNSHADES OF BRIDGEND recently had an overhaul of their advertising strategy, with extensive changes to copy.

Brett Davies, Sales & Marketing Manager, said: "We are exceptionally pleased with the service provided by Kathryn and commend the Production team at The GEM for the quickest turnaround we've experienced with any of the publications we deal with. The ads look great too!"

For Bridgend businesses requiring more information on how The GEM can help you, call Kathryn Jones on 01446 774484 or E-Mail: kathryn.jones@tindlenews.co.uk

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I GORAU ARF ARF DYSG
We're grateful to The GEM for always spreading our news
Dates for the diary:
July 2: Year 6 Parents' Evening for the 'new' September intake
July 9-12: 'Little Shop of Horrors' Musical Production - not to be missed!
Good luck to all our pupils sitting exams in May & June!
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Llantwit Major School
Ysgol Llanilltud Fawr
Pupils and staff are looking forward to running Enterprise Week between 14-18 July.
This year's theme is 'The World Cup'.
Products made will be sold to the public on Friday 18 July. All profits made during the week will be donated to charities of the pupils' choosing.
Llantwit Major Comprehensive School
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E: llantwitmajorhs@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk
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AS EXCITING TIMES LIE AHEAD...

LOOKING BACK ON HECTIC TERM AT GLADSTONE PRIMARY SCHOOL

'Children love to see their faces in The GEM!'

MAKING A DIFFERENCE
LOCAL NEWSPAPER WEEK 12-18 MAY

(Continued from page 15)

EXCITING changes are now taking place at Gladstone Primary School, in Barry, with major building work and renovations being carried out in both infant and junior buildings.

As the school starts the final term of the academic year, we reflect back on a busy spring term...

Year-6 children enjoyed a successful residential visit to Stackpole in Pembrokeshire, participating in activities such as canoeing, rock climbing and mountain biking. All children achieved the John Muir award, which demonstrates their commitment to exploring and conserving the environment.

Gladstone achieved the National Quality Award for Healthy Schools and the Platinum Award for Eco Schools which gave everyone reason to celebrate, whilst children from year-5 performed a spectacular dance in the Schools Dance Association at the Sherman Theatre in Cardiff.

Both children and staff dressed in red and Welsh attire to celebrate St David's Day and dressed up again for World Book Day, this time as their favourite book characters.

On a sporting note, £500 was raised for Sports Relief; year-4 children received table tennis coaching from Welsh champion, Stephen Jenkins and year-5 received coaching from Cardiff City. The school rugby team took part in a tag festival at Colcot Primary and will take part in the Cardiff Arms Park Festival later this month.

Representatives from years-3 to 6 took part in an enterprise project 'Speculators to Accumulators', where they set up a successful fruit cafe at play times. Watch this space for their next exciting venture!

Term ended with the traditional Easter bonnet parade – the weather was kind and the whole school gathered outside to watch the wonderful creations.

HELEN REILLY

ABOVE: Easter bonnet competition winners.

Collecting a healthy schools award.

ABOVE: Road safety training with Kerbcraft.

ABOVE: Performing at Sherman Cymru in Cardiff.

On the beach at Stackpole.

ABOVE: Pupils on a visit to Stackpole.

ABOVE: The school's TAG rugby team.

CARDIFF CROWN COURT ROUND-UP by AJ SICLUNA

Flying Vet is sent to jail

MAURICE KIRK, the Vale 'Flying Vet', is back behind bars.

Mr Kirk, (68) who has lived at addresses in St Donats and Barry, was found guilty at Cardiff Crown Court of breaching a restraining order by making disparaging comments on the internet concerning Dr Tegwyn Williams and threatening to burn down his house.

He was jailed for a total of 16 months.

While being sentenced via a video link from Cardiff Prison, Kirk continually interrupted Judge Rhys Rowlands and minutes before the end of the case, he walked away from the camera.

Christopher Smythe prosecuting, said that Dr Williams had been "thoroughly harassed by Kirk's activities".

Before being sentenced, Kirk insisted he wished to take legal advice about certain matters.

"I want immediate adjournment," he said. His application was refused.

The Judge said that last May, Kirk breached the restraining order and threatened to set fire to Dr Williams' home.

"That threat was taken seriously by the Court," he said.

He added: "This is the second time you have been convicted of breaching the order. You deliberately flouted it, and your behaviour has had a profound effect. Dr Williams has had to relocate."

The Judge continued: "It is plain to me you are not in the least contrite and you believe you are above the law."

The Judge said that during the trial, his behaviour had been extraordinary and he appeared to view the law with "complete contempt".

Maesteg man is sentenced after attack

A MAESTEG man who attacked a teenager has been jailed for three months at Cardiff Crown Court .

Leon Walker (37) of Greenwood Avenue, Maesteg Park, admitted causing actual bodily harm.

He denied attempting to inflict grievous bodily harm with intent.

That plea was accepted by the prosecution and the not guilty verdict was recorded.

Walker, who had been remanded in custody, was immediately released.

Throughout the hearing, which was by means of a video link, Walker continuously wept.

Prosecutor Ian Kolville said the victim suffered burns on his arm, caused by an electrical item. He had earlier shouted abuse at Walker.

The boy suffered a "raw wound" and blistering.

Walker's counsel, Matthew Roberts, said: "He is not a man prone to violence."

Said Judge Philip Richards: "This boy suffered a very unpleasant injury. I'm not satisfied you fully intended to cause the injury, and I'm sure you feel great regret at what occurred."

He added: "You are not a saint, you have committed offences in the past."

Warning for Barry woman over drugs

A BARRY woman has been warned that if she appears before the court again for a drugs offence, she will go to prison.

Michelle Margus (47) of Park Crescent, had been convicted by Cardiff Magistrates of possessing amphetamine and she was also in breach of a suspended sentence for possessing mephadrone with intent to supply.

She was jailed for a year, the sentence suspended for two years, and made subject to a two-year supervision order.

She was also made subject to an electronically-tagged curfew from 8pm to 7am for three months.

Prosecutor Julian Greenwood said that on January 28, police went to her home in connection with another matter.

They spotted a set of scales on which were found small traces of amphetamine.

She was totally co-operative and said what the drug was.

Said Judge David Wynn Morgan: "It is your good fortune that all that was discovered were traces of amphetamine."

He added: "Next time, it'll be straight down, got that?"

Man is fined for possession of cocaine in club

SECURITY staff at a Bridgend nightspot detained a clubber who they suspected of possessing drugs, Cardiff Crown Court heard.

Gavin Rees, 21, was searched by police officers and was found to have a quantity of the class A drug, cocaine, worth £70.

Rees, a scaffolder, of Attlee Terrace, Maesteg, admitted possessing the drug and was fined £500 and ordered to pay costs of £340.

He was also said to be in breach of a suspended sentence for aggravated vehicle taking.

Judge Rhys Rowlands told him: "Instead of watching your step that night, you were drunk and in possession of cocaine."

Prosecutor Jonathan Headington said Rees was detained by security staff at the Sax club, Bridgend, on February 22.

At the time, he was drunk and was later found to have 0.6 grammes of cocaine.

He told the police: "It's down my trousers," and indicated it was for his own personal use.

He was said to have a previous conviction for possessing drugs and to have been cautioned for possessing cocaine.

His counsel, David Williams, said: "The suspended sentence had only 15 more days to run. He earns £350 a week net and has worked since the age of 16."

The judge said it would have been unjust to have imposed any part of the suspended sentence order.

Man took drugs into Parc Prison

AN inmate of Parc Prison, Bridgend, who was found in possession of a Class C drug has been jailed for a year at Cardiff Crown Court.

Lewis Addis (23) of Victoria Road, Penarth, admitted taking a prohibited substance into prison and possessing it.

Prosecutor Tony Trigg said that at the time, Addis was serving a 64-month sentence for causing grievous bodily harm and for robbery.

He was spotted by security staff and the following day when he went to the lavatory, a pack containing 20 Suputex tablets were found.

The drug, said Mr Trigg, was a heroin substitute and Addis said it was for his own use only.

The 12-month prison sentence is to run concurrently with the 64-month sentence.

'Mini-stroke' awareness class

STROKE nurses are inviting people across the ABM area to information sessions and blood pressure checks as part of Action on Stroke Month, which takes place throughout May.

This year, nurses, together with the Stroke Association, are focussing on Transient Ischaemic Attacks (TIAs), commonly known as mini-strokes.

Stroke co-ordinator Kath Roche explained: "Some people mistake a TIA for a funny turn but it isn't – it's a medical emergency.

"TIAs are sudden, unpredictable and can last seconds, minutes or hours but never longer than 24 hours. One in 12 people who suffer a TIA will go on to have a stroke within a week, usually during the first few days.

"46,000 people have their first TIA each year and around 10,000 strokes could be avoided if they are investigated and treated quickly. This is why it is so important for people to recognise TIAs."

The nurses will host their information session on May 12, 13, 14 and 15 outside the Princess of Wales Hospital's pharmacy between 10am and 12pm and 1pm and 3pm.

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Young harpists shine at festival

Triawd Iolo Morganwg Caitlin Morris, Sara Jones and Cesia Lewis.

LOCAL harpists shone in the South Glamorgan Festival for Young Musicians held in St John's College, Cardiff, over the Bank Holiday weekend.

Caitlin Morris and Cesia Lewis, pupils at Ysgol Iolo Morganwg, competed in the junior harp competition. Caitlin took joint first place and was awarded the Megan Trophy; Cesia was awarded a medal.

The Iolo Morganwg Trio members Caitlin, Cesia and Sara Jones then took first place in the junior instrumental ensemble competition. Harpist Anwen Fardy from Ysgol Bro Morganwg was highly commended in the young recitalist competition.

The festival chair, John Reynolds, said he was really pleased with the level of entries. Thanks go to St John's School, the adjudicators for providing constructive appraisals of performances, and to parents and teachers for their support, which all contributed to a wonderful weekend of music making. **CG**

Caitlin Morris receives the Megan Trophy.

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Orangery expert Nigel Hocking explains: "We start the process by asking 'how do you want to use the room?'

Once the ideas flow, the exciting part of creating something completely bespoke begins."

In these early stages, Securahome's designers create a 3D CAD model to help homeowners work through their ideas.

"Over the years those ideas have included wood burners vented through a pillar, fold away 'glass walls' created using bi-folding doors and ultra-modern floor to ceiling glass," Nigel adds. "Just about anything is possible."

Aesthetics aside, when you create your perfect living space, it's important to be able to enjoy it – whatever the weather.

To ensure that's possible, high levels of insulation are a must.

Thanks to new technology, windows to the stars can offer the same thermal properties as a flat roof.

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WHO WANTS TO BUILD WHAT, AND WHERE IN VALE?

Bettercare Keys Ltd – **277 Gladstone Road, Barry** – Residential care home.
Pheasant Acre Plants – **Field OS number 7552, Llangan** – Retention of two existing polytunnels, erection of one additional polytunnel and retention of hardcore track.
Mr Richard Watkins – **Bonvilla, Bonvilston** – High hedge.
Mrs I Powell – **74 Westbourne Road, Penarth** – Single storey rear extension and side dormer extension.
Fonmon Castle Estate – **Land at Upper House Farm, Port Road, East Aberthaw** – Provision of improved access to farmyard to cater for modern vehicles.
One Stop Convenience Store – **Londis Supermarket Shop, 4 Plas Cleddau, Barry** – Manufacture and install three fascias, manufacture and install four digitally printed window graphics, manufacture and install poster cases, manufacture and install 4 PET G.
Mr and Mrs E Wilson – **Rockliffe, Colwinston** – Fell top of Sycamore tree.
Mr and Mrs Bernard – **28 Cog Road, Sully** – Proposed extension and alterations to existing dwelling; resubmission.
Kimberley, Luke and Christopher Edwards – **99 Westbourne Road, Penarth** – Single storey extension to side and rear; roof dormer with balcony to rear; single garage with new access to the highway.
Douglas Burton – **Old Court House, High Street, Llantwit Major** – 50 per cent reduction on Ash, removal of Sycamore and 50 per cent reduction of Holly and Bay.

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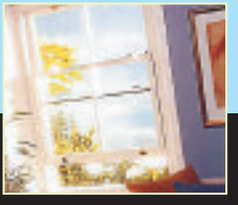

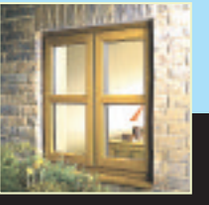

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The vision behind St Quintin's Cottage garden

ST QUINTIN'S Cottage is a triangular shaped garden, which runs down St Quentin's Hill beside the castle in Llanblethian.

Originally an outbuilding of St Quentin's House, it was converted to a cottage in the 1940s and the garden was divided into two.

Probably in the late 1940s, the garden belonging to the cottage was redesigned by Ralph Hancock, a Welsh garden designer, who had become internationally renowned since he was commissioned to design a garden for Princess Victoria in 1927.

His fame grew throughout the thirties and forties when he built roof gardens for the Rockefeller Centre in New York and Derry & Toms in Kensington, London.

He won several gold medals at Chelsea and in 1948 he built the gardens at Twyn-yr-Hydd, Margam.

To create a less formal 'cottage garden' at St Quintin's, he brought in Westmoreland stone to give a 'wild' effect, with a series of rockeries and pools which cascade down the side of the hill to a wildlife pond at the foot of the garden, and stone paths linking flower gardens, lawns and shrubberies.

An Italianate fishpond and fountain strike a classical note at the foot of wide stone steps leading to a sloping lawn, which overlooks the surrounding countryside.

Although the formal design of the garden has softened over the last 65 years, the essence of Hancock's vision has been respected and may still be recognised in its sunlit terraces, shady pools and arched walkways.

The garden is open on Sunday, May 25 for the NGS, between 2pm and 6pm. Access is by 24 steps and there is no wheelchair access.

Lorna Callaghan

Neighbours don't like messy gardens next door

Make your outdoor space spick and span

PEOPLE spend, on average, four hours each week ensuring their homes are spick and span but remarkably, one in four people in Wales have never cleaned their garden, a study has revealed.

The national survey of 2,000 garden owners, which was commissioned by Jeyes as part of its Great British Scrub Up campaign, also found that 27 per cent of people in Wales have never cleaned their patio with one in three people quizzed saying they didn't realise the importance of cleaning and disinfecting outside areas.

A total of 63 per cent of people in the region also admitted they are unaware of harmful bacteria that could be lurking in their garden.

Despite this, Welsh folk aren't shy when it comes to rating their own 'room outside'; 69 per cent of green-fingered home owners said they are proud of their garden with the average home owner having splashed out more than £1,000 on their garden since moving in.

The survey also found that 42 per cent of people in Wales said they feel annoyed if their neighbour's garden is a mess with 40 per cent admitting to regularly having a sneaky peak over the fence to see what their neighbours have been doing with their garden.

Dr Clare Jackson, research and development director at Jeyes, said: "This survey has thrown up some really interesting findings about the cleaning habits of people in Wales, especially learning that one in four people are missing cleaning outdoor areas that can harbour germs."

Visionary behind Dyffryn Gardens

THE man behind the vision for Dyffryn Gardens, Reginald Cory, is the subject of a talk free to National Trust members on Monday, May 12 at 7:30pm. Admission to the house is from 7pm.

He was hugely influential in horticultural circles and devoted his life to the collection, propagation and cultivation of huge numbers of plants. Many specimens and champion trees still remain in the grounds today.

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GLITZ AND GLAMOUR AS PRINCESS ROYAL THEATRE HOSTS 'MISS WALES'

PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

OTHER PICTURES ARE AVAILABLE FROM THIS EVENT.

Pictures can be purchased by contacting:

E-Mail: ffotoimage@tiscali.co.uk

Telephone 07791 228684 • www.ffotoimage.co.uk

THE Miss Wales event was held at the Princess Royal Theatre in Port Talbot.

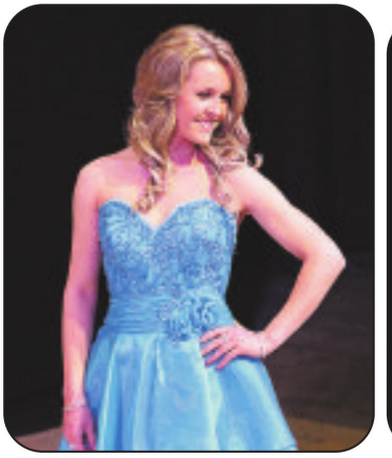
There were 40 finalists from the length and breadth of Wales and The GEM's Glyn Evans was on hand to capture all the glamour and excitement of the evening.

The winner – and Miss Wales for 2014 – was Alice Ford from Radyr in Cardiff.

Miss Bridgend.

Miss Vale of Glamorgan.

The winner Alice Ford from Cardiff.



A real life tale of Downton Abbey!

Ann Morgan, Lady Carnarvon, and Sir Norman Lloyd-Edwards.

A RECORD attendance of almost 200 members, demonstrated the popularity of a TV series when Lady Carnarvon visited the south Wales branch of the English – Speaking Union to speak on 'Lady Carnarvon and the Real Downton Abbey'.

She spoke movingly on the challenges that faced Lady Almina, 19-year-old illegitimate daughter of banking tycoon Alfred de Rothschild, who married into the Carnarvon family, bringing with her an enormous fortune and who, with the onset of the First World War persuaded the Earl to turn their home, Highclere Castle, into a military hospital.

With letters by George Washington and Winston Churchill in the family archives, Lady Carnarvon quoted from a wealth of social and political memorabilia with a depth of knowledge that confirmed the diligent research she had undertaken in writing several books on the Carnarvon family history.

Branch members now look forward to a visit to Fonmon Castle on the evening of June 12 for the annual garden party with the Ogmore Vale Silver Band.

Lord Strathcarron will speak at the September lunch following in the footsteps of Mark Twain as he journeyed through India.

For details of membership please contact Derek Morgan, branch chairman, on 01656 669129 or email dwcaym@googlemail.com.

HISTORIC DAY AS THE QUEEN SEES THE WORK OF ATLANTIC COLLEGE

THE QUEEN and The Duke of Edinburgh visited UWC Atlantic College on Wednesday, April 30, to meet the college's international students.

The occasion marked her third official visit as patron of UWC Atlantic College, the founding college of the UWC (United World Colleges) movement.

The Queen last visited the college in 1993. UWC Atlantic College has since celebrated many landmark events, including its 50th anniversary in 2012.

The Queen and the Duke were welcomed at the gates of St Donat's Castle by chair of board of governors at UWC Atlantic College, Stephen Cox CVO, and college principal, John Walmsley, and by Dr Peter Beck, Lord Lieutenant of South Glamorgan, together with other civic dignitaries.

Following a bespoke performance by the students' a cappella choir and the unveiling of a commemorative plaque, the visitors met representatives of the college's student body, which is made up of 350 students from over 90 countries.

The royal party visited an exhibition of student work and life at UWC Atlantic College which illustrated the college's unique educational offering.

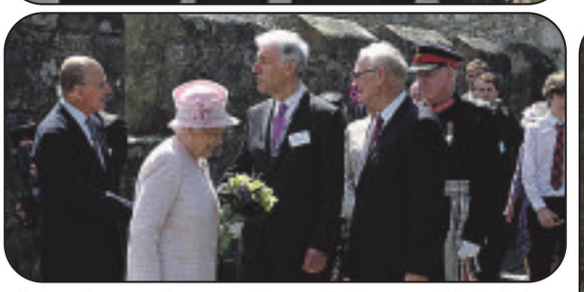
The college's new and pioneering qualification, The Atlantic Diploma, combines a rigorous academic curriculum, based on the International Baccalaureate, with a demanding co-curricular programme – focused on community-service activities and on a number of social care and environmental initiatives.

Commenting on the historic visit, John Walmsley said: "We were honoured to welcome her Majesty and his Royal Highness to St Donat's Castle on this, their third visit to UWC Atlantic College and are delighted that they continue to show a keen interest in our work, particularly at such an exciting time in the college's history.

"UWC Atlantic College's founding mission, to promote international and inter-cultural understanding, remains as relevant today as it was in 1962, at the height of the Cold War.

"The late Earl Mountbatten of Burma's vision to expand the concept has resulted in what is today a global education movement. By 2015 UWC will be represented by 13 similar colleges worldwide.

"As the founding college, UWC Atlantic College provides an unparalleled offering as it seeks to inspire and nurture future leaders, through a curriculum that values active service within the community alongside the academic rigours of the International Baccalaureate."



QUEEN'S VISIT TO ATLANTIC COLLEGE BRINGS OUT SUNSHINE – AND SMILES!

Students from around the globe were thrilled to see the Queen.

'VALE HAS INCONSISTENT APPROACH TO SCHOOLS FUNDING'

says regional AM

LAST week's GEM featured a story revealing the Vale Council's £1.2 million real terms cuts to school spending – information I received directly from the council following a freedom of information request.

This is an issue of deep concern to local residents, many of whom have contacted me about this issue. I was not "playing politics" with education as the cabinet member claims: I was drawing your readers' attention to facts that I received from his own department. School spending is down by £1.2 million across the Vale of Glamorgan.

Coun Elmore puts the cut down to lower pupil numbers, yet Stanwell has received a marginally higher budget – despite their pupil numbers falling.

It is a fact that pupil numbers are down at Cowbridge for this school year – but only by three pupils. As a result of this, the school has had almost £150,000 slashed from its budget. The trend for the last few years has been a steady rise and pupil numbers are expected to rise again for the coming school year.

Ultimately, there doesn't appear to be any consistency and it is only right that residents get the chance to judge these figures for themselves.

Welsh Conservatives have pledged to fund schools directly. At present, local education authorities are retaining around 20 per cent of the education budget they receive – money which should be spent on teachers and learning materials, not bureaucrats.

As for the Welsh Labour Government that Coun Elmore proudly champions… on top of record-breaking cuts to the Welsh NHS, they cut £77.5 million from the education budget this year.

Rather than getting bogged down in a row over statistics, the cabinet member should look into these inconsistencies in school spending and ensure that he learns from his mistakes when next year's budget is put together.

Andrew RT Davies,
(South Wales Central AM and Leader of the Welsh Conservatives).

Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D825:

£2,000: 842708.

The rollover, which now stands at £11,000 was not won this week.

£10: 680383, 975800, 239339, 417343, 419592, 202021, 448370, 635046, 444900, 497102, 130203, 293618, 607926, 122805, 431910, 105932, 881318, 186140.

£5: 724397, 825549, 706131, 728006, 711220, 834780, 142073, 577700, 121636, 432917, 330953, 650558, 482729, 247910, 814831, 495531, 393691, 195908, 525282, 623449, 164982, 641682, 481224, 602005, 481947, 227442, 318949, 206886, 436389, 621726, 343110, 223332, 178461, 557591, 587482, 245848, 979229, 511333, 250817, 213675, 849204, 877211, 413039, 509252, 727905, 684333, 154473, 253359, 199622, 162397, 830054, 291009, 253443, 241883, 656548, 387315, 668962, 810611, 158475, 665532.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please telephone 029 2053 2300.

Charity twmpath for MS charity

Former pupils of Ysgol Gymraeg Sant Baruc are holding a folk dancing evening to raise funds for the Multiple Sclerosis Society on May 16, from 8pm at the Mount Sorrel Hotel.

The caller will be Goronwy Jones. All are welcome and tickets are £5 at the door.

Find us on Facebook - *facebook.com/GlamorganGEM*

WHAT'S ON in brief

Carers' support

CARERS looking after a loved one with dementia can find out what Crossroads in The Vale offer in the way of support, when Age Concern Cardiff and Vale hold an advice session at The Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry, on Tuesday, May 13 (10am-12pm). No appointment is needed. Contact 01446 732385 for further information.

Amelia Trust

THE Amelia Trust Farm will be calling for volunteers in the Vale Volunteer Bureau office, Llantwi Major, on Friday May 9 from 11am – 1pm.

For more information, contact 01446 782030, or www.ameliatrust.org.uk.

Open Forum

OPEN Farm Sunday will be taking place on June 8 with hundreds of farms across the country opening their gates to celebrate British farming and food, including Amelia Trust farm in the Vale.

The working farm is set in 160 acres of countryside, which includes 28 acres of woodland and a variety of habitats.

There will be a wildlife talk, nature-based activities and a guided tour. Opening hours on the day: 2pm – 4pm.

Concert for charity

BRIDGEND Male Choir will raise funds for Marie Curie with a concert on Saturday, May 10 at Trinity Methodist Church, Porthcawl (John Street) at a cost of just £7. Tickets are available at the door from 6.30pm for 7pm.

Bake-a-Cake for hospice!

TO celebrate the 30th anniversary of George Thomas Hospice Care, amateur bakers are asked to bake cakes and sell them to raise money for the charity on Tuesday, May 13.

Bakers can also enter their cakes into a competition and win fantastic prizes. Welsh chef and cookery teacher, Angela Gray will judge the cakes and decide on the Bake-a-Cake Day Champion. The winner will receive a day's cookery course at the Llanerch Vineyard cookery school with Angela worth £165. Second place will win a Skill-builder course and third will receive a Lunch-club for two people.

Angela is supporting the event in memory of her mum Betty, who was cared for by the staff there.

To register and get your full information pack and cake sale form, call GTHC on 029 2052 4150 or go to www.gthc.org.uk.

Advice on Open University

COWBRIDGE Library will be hosting an Open University advice day, May 14, between 11am and 2pm. All are welcome.

World War 1 tales from the Vale

TWO of the 25 walks in this year's Vale of Glamorgan Walking Festival commemorate the centenary of the outbreak of World War One.

The first, in Ewenny, will give walkers the opportunity to hear stories of the two sons and two grandsons of Lt Col John Picton Turnbull, who lost their lives in very different circumstances.

The second, in Barry Island, will recall the people, places and stories of Barry in World War One, including setting out in a rowing boat to confront a German vessel!

No booking required. Visit www.valeofglamorganwalking festival.org.uk for the full details of the walks. Call Valeweays on 01446 749000 (Mon – Wed 9.30am – 2pm).

Church concert

ON Friday, May 9, Canton Rugby Male Voice Choir will be in concert at St Augustine's Church, Penarth from 7.30pm; admission £5, inclusive of refreshments.

Art retreat

THERE will be an art retreat at St Claire's Prayer Centre, Porthcawl on Saturday, May 10 at 11am – 4pm.

For details call 07866277560 or email freshstart.grice@gmail.com www.siobhangrice.com.

Charity bike ride

BARNARDO'S Ambassador and Olympic medal winner Jamie Baulch is getting on his bike for the charity and is encouraging people to follow his lead.

The 33rd On your Bike for Barnardo's will take place on Sunday, May 18 around the Vale to raise crucial funds for young victims of sexual exploitation.

Entrants 12 – 16 years of age must be accompanied by a parent/guardian. *To find out more log on now to www.barnardos.org.uk/onyourbike or call 02920 436236 or email events@barnardos.org.uk*

MINI BURN: *'Let the training commence!*

*DOUBLE world record holder **MARIA LEIJERSTAM** from the Vale of Glamorgan, founder of the Burn Series of multisport events and qualified personal trainer, will inspire you with a weekly column on simple family sporting adventures in the beautiful countryside of south Wales.*

Maria will guide you on how and where in your area you can combine sport and fitness into family fun…

Last weekend I decided that with only eight weeks to go before the Mini Burn Multisport event at Margam Park, it was time for team training to begin.

On June, 28, my sister Nina, 37 years old, and her 7 year old son, Luca, will be taking on this year's event that involves 3km of running, 1km of kayaking, 10km of mountain biking and 2km of orienteering.

By making the announcement at 7am in the morning that training had begun, both Nina and Luca were dressed and ready in minutes.

For Nina, it was a break to be able to get out of the house on a sunny morning and go for a much needed jog and for Luca, the excitement of going on a proper run with adults meant there was no fuss when it came to getting dressed.

We began with a gentle circular 3km jog along a bridleway and through some beautiful fields that were flush with summer flowers.

For both Nina and Luca, it's important that the majority of their running is on soft terrain to protect Luca's growing body and reduce jarring on Nina's body to avoid any joint problems.

By running off-road also helps to maintain and build strength in the foot and the ankle as they both have to work much harder to keep balance on the uneven terrain.

Off-road running is a lot of fun as it takes you to places you normally would not go. It was great to watch Luca's smile grow ever larger with the collection of mud that was gathering on his legs. There is something very liberating about running straight through a puddle of mud.

Following our run, we spent ten minute practising yoga to help to stretch and calm the body ready for the day ahead.

Gentle stretching, where each stretch is held for 30 seconds, is very important after a run as it helps the muscles to relax. This reduces soreness and allows the body to expell lactic acid far more effectively.

Why not take on the Mini Burn this year and follow my training tips for the next few weeks?

Set yourself the challenge. Log onto www.burnseries.co.uk/youradventure for full details.

ABOVE: Maria Leijerstam

Make sure you join me next week for more adventures.

FOOTNOTE:

This column is provided for idea purposes only. Always check with your doctor if you have any concerns about your health prior to embarking on any form of physical activity and always let someone know where you are going.

Have you heard of Glympse? It's a brilliant free app that shares your location with anyone you want for a specified period of time.

The GEM newspaper and Multisport Ltd are not responsible or liable, directly, indirectly or consequentially, for ANY form of damages whatsoever resulting from the use (or misuse) of information contained in or implied by the column.

Street surgery

INDEPENDENT councillors Richard and Robert Bertin will be holding a special petition surgery in Hannah Street, Barry between 10am-11.30am on Saturday, May 10, when they will be collecting signatures in support of a new relief road linking Gladstone Road and Dyfan Road. Contact Coun Richard Bertin on 01446 73227.

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Good start for the Llantwit Cavaliers

AFTER all the rain in April it was nice to get out on the field for the first league game of the SWCA season.

The Cavs lost the toss and were asked to bat first against Kidwelly on a not too surprising damp wicket. Julian Griffiths top scored with 41, and useful contributions from Sam Pickford (31), Harry Withers (29), Neal Pritchard (28 not out) and Jake McNaughton (25) helped the Cavs set a respectable 199 for 8 off 50 overs; just one run short of full batting points. The bowling honours went to Kidwelly's Kyle Griffiths who took five wickets for 42 runs from his 15 overs.

Thanks to Julie Cheal for the fantastic teas; much appreciated by all, as always. The Cavs took to the field looking to put in a good fielding performance and blow away any rustiness and cobwebs from the close season.

Kidwelly were bowled out for 48 in the 33rd over with Elliot Pritchard taking 4 for 18 from 11 overs on his 1st XI debut. Jono Cheal also took 4 wickets for 14 runs from 10 overs with 5 maidens.

Opening bowlers Sam Pickford (6-2-6-1) and Gareth Hughes (5-3-2-0) also put in excellent performances with Stuart Davies taking the final wicket of the match.

An excellent performance from the Cavs; unfortunately we have a bye next Saturday but the Sunday XI are in action at Pontypridd in the G & M Sunday League.

CAVS 2ND XI (103 FOR 8)
KIDWELLY (88 ALL OUT)

The Cavs 2nd XI lost the toss and were asked to bat first on a day that was surprisingly warmer than forecast, with a bit of sun here and there making the conditions very pleasant.

The Cavs scored 103 for 8 off their 40 overs thanks in the main to Mark Coldwell who carried his bat for an invaluable 44 runs. Only one other batsman got into double figures but it was pleasing for the innings to last a full 40 overs in the first game of the season.

James Conick took the honours with the best bowling performance for Kidwelly 5 wickets for 25 runs off 10 overs. Nasir also took 1 for 12 off 10 overs with Ieuan Berry and George Elks also taking wickets.

The Cavs took to the field hoping to make inroads into the Kidwelly batting line up. Dave Cheal (1 for 31 from 10) and Phil Harris (4 for 30 off 10) opened the bowling for the Cavs with both bowling well with some bad luck here and there.

Phil took the first four wickets to fall before Dave took the vital wicket of James Conick [31] who looked like he was going to take the game away from the Cavs.

The Cavs bowled Kidwelly out for 88 in the 30th over with Lee Callard (2 for 10) and Scott Buckley taking the final five wickets between them. Shane Callard took two catches, with the best being a forward diving catch just inches off the floor.

A good performance from the Cavs and a satisfying start as we look to our next league game at Llandeilo in a fortnight's time.

DC

ABOVE: The winning team of Sian Lovell, Madeleine Johns, Sara Williams and Jacki Boyce.

Easter bonnets lead the way at golf competition

In second place were Helen Poole, Helen Ruttley, Rose Dawson and Elaine Mais.

LEFT: Three captains: Jan Cosby, Helen Poole and Tessa Matthews.

A BELATED Easter golf competition and lunch for the Cottrell Park Golf Club ladies was held on the Thursday following Easter, led by the ladies captain, vice captain and past captain wearing Easter bonnets.

A 12-hole Texas Scramble was played on a nice sunny morning. The winning team were Sian Lovell, Madeleine Johns, Sara Williams and Jacki Boyce with 41 points. Second were Helen Poole, Helen Ruttley, Rose Dawson and Elaine Mais.

Following a delicious lunch, Jan Cosby, the ladies captain, presented prizes to the winning teams. Chris Evans was congratulated on winning the Winter League and the trophy was presented to her.

A present was given to Sara Williams to commemorate her recent hole in one. Jan then thanked all the ladies who had helped to make it such a good day.

CB

Barry Wanderers leave it late to earn a close victory

ON a beautiful spring day, skipper Fenton typically lost the toss for Barry Wanderers and was surprised when Abercarn decided to bat on a soft and possibly unpredictable track.

Fenton and young Sam Harris opened the attack, the former successful with a wicket but the latter more accurate, with just two runs from his four overs.

Ieuan Wade and the evergreen Dave Morgan ably supported with a wicket apiece. Alex Rogan bowled tidily and with raw pace and young Luke Grant chipped in with a wicket too, before Harris and Fenton returned with three wickets between them. The Casuals finished on a very respectable 170 runs their 40 overs.

After a classic Wanderers tea, the ominous task of chasing down the target with an inexperienced batting line-up began. Peter Coleman and Dafydd Howells weighed anchor and were patient.

Coleman got a good one which took his bails off and he was gone for a solid 12. Lewis Downey enjoyed some good crease time and showed promise with his six. Theo Richards struck a mighty six into the car park and scored a useful 13.

The Wanderers were in a bit of bother at 68 for four which brought the last recognised 'batsman' to the crease in Fenton. He and Howells steadied the ship with a stand of 34. When Howells was caught for 19, Josh departed for a duck.

Promising Sam Harris was in at 8 and the partnership of 38 with Fenton was pivotal in the game. While Harris only scored five of them, his sensible head on young shoulders allowed the skipper to accelerate proceedings with some lusty blows.

Dave Morgan chipped in with a handy two and when Luke Grant departed for a first ball duck, the Wanderers were still 15 runs short with one wicket remaining.

Ieuan Wade was last man in and he was sensible with his approach. Fenton smashed a six into the woods to leave four runs to get. Wade edged one to short third man and a scampered single was enough to win a fantastic game of cricket – Fenton finishing on a game-changing 72 not out.

Thanks to Gareth Lanagan for sponsoring the game.

AF

MIXED WEEK FOR ROMILLY BOWLERS

BARRY Romilly bowls club played their first Munroe Cup match of the season at Romilly Park on Wednesday, April 30 against Barry Plastics bowls club.

The 'Rom' fielded a strong side for this midweek fixture and this showed in the end result, with Romilly winning on three of the four rinks and drawing on the other, taking 13 points to the Plastics' one point.

Saturday, May 3, saw both Romilly Club and 'A' sides in action in important games, ending in disappointment for the club side in their first Carruthers Shield game and the 'A' side returning to form in their SVLA game.

Romilly first team welcomed Kenfig Hill to Romilly Park for their first match in their Carruthers Shield group. On a perfect day for bowls, the game began with both teams struggling to find their weight and line on a heavy green and after five ends, the 'Rom' held the advantage, 19 shots to 12.

The game continued with neither side taking advantage of the conditions, with Kenfig Hill clawing back to be three behind after 10 ends.

Kenfig continued their comeback and by the 15th end found themselves ahead by six shots, 55-61.

The only Romilly rink doing well was that of Graham Cogbill who was well ahead 19 to 10. The rink skipped by Fred Phillips, although starting well and leading early on, began to leak shots dropping a four on three ends to be down 10-19 by the 15th end.

Other rinks skipped by Mel Newman and Jeff Wright also were one and five down respectively at the same time. Romilly, although behind by six shots going into the last six ends, still felt confident of recovering the deficit but every time Romilly were in a strong position holding the shot, the Kenfig Hill back players, in fairness, bowled the perfect bowl to win the end and subsequently the game by 10 shots, 73-83.

The next game is against Pontyclun away on Saturday and this is a must win game to give 'The Rom' any chance of progressing in the competition.

Romilly 'A' side played their second game in the SVLA last Saturday and after a disappointing defeat in their first game much more was expected in their game away against Llantwit Major.

Romilly started very well and were well ahead at halfway 49-28; by the 15th end they were still ahead 71-45. The rink skipped by Des Bannister played well throughout and over the last six ends took 10 shots to 4 to win convincingly by 26 shots to 14.

Another rink skipped by Brian Cheal made a similar score of 9 shots to 2 over those last six ends to close 10 shots ahead, 25-15.

The other rinks skipped by Bryn Gough and Bob Wyatt both won very tight games by 20-18 and 22-20 respectively to give Romilly a full house and 14 points.

FP

DADS FOOTBALL MATCH HELPS OUT TY HAFAN

A recent charity football match between The Ty Hafan Dads and Dan Evans FC certainly proved to be a big success, with the final total raised for the hospice being £2,166.

A spokesperson for the event commented: "It costs over £3million a year for this wonderful and essential facility to keep running so to help a little towards that has made everyone involved very proud. This is definitely going to be an annual event we'll all look forward to, and hopefully it will get bigger to raise more funds and awareness of this amazing charity.

"On behalf of both Dan Evans FC and Ty Hafan, we would like to say a huge thank you to everybody who made donations and prizes for the raffle; these included Lyndons School of Motoring, Dow Corning, Manchester United Supporters Club Glamorgan and Gwent Branch, Cardiff City FC, Cambrian Restaurant, Hedleys Restaurant, Carbon 60 Global, Chopper and Jo at Jacquie's fruit and veg, Ryan at Dinas Powys Stores, Ad and Uz at Premier Waterfront stores, Tony at ASH building services, Tesco Barry, The Copthorne Hotel, The Witchill Public House and The Cwm Talwg Public House.

"A thank you must also be given to the mini football teams of Island Marine and Cadoxton Imps, and Dave the chef and his Barry Celts junior football team; also Chris Bowsher for officiating the match and Jeff Griffiths.

A special thank you should go to Paul Fisher at Ty Hafan for the hard work he put in and the Ty Hafan Dads group for the massive effort they gave during the match. But the biggest thank you should go to the squad of the Dan Evans FC team for their tireless efforts to raise such a great amount – well done lads, you should be very proud."

If any teams would like to challenge the Ty Hafan Dads and raise much-needed funds towards helping these life limited children, young adults and their families please contact either Paul, Jeff or Becks at Ty Hafan on 02920 532200 for advice.

JH

Who wants to build what, and where?

UWC Atlantic College – **The Cavalry Barracks, United World College of the Atlantic, St Donats Castle, St Donats** – New door opening.

Mr Mathew Shields – **Waun Croes, Cross Common Road, Dinas Powys** – Single storey rear extension and two storey side extension.

Vale of Glamorgan Council – **Albert Road Primary School, Albert Road, Penarth** – Relocation of existing radio transmitter.

Dr Robert Evans – **16 Marine Walk, Ogmore-by-Sea** – Proposed first floor balcony extension and introduction of two Velux rooflights to front elevation roof.

Mr John Charalambous – **70 John Bachelor Way, Portway Marina, Penarth** – Proposed garage conversion.

Mr and Mrs M Armitage – **Maesaeson House, Peterston-super-Ely** – Two story rear extension double garage and detached stable block.

Mr and Mrs Barwell – **The Anchorage, St Donats, Llantwit Major** – Alterations to existing dwelling, including loft conversion and demolition of existing pre-fabricated garage and the erection of new garage with study/store above.

Mr and Mrs Gerry and Jill Adams – **44 Port Road East, Barry** – Single storey front extension.

Memoria Limited – **Cardiff and Glamorgan Memorial Park and Crematorium** – Change of use of land to be utilised as burial ground of the land within the curtilage of Cardiff and Glamorgan Memorial Park and Crematorium.

Robert Thomas – **Highfield Farm, Colwinston** – Change of use from agricultural barn to village shop and cafe.

Mr Adrian Jones – **1 Ridgeway Road, Barry** – Rear existing extension to be rebuilt and small extension to side of house, existing parapet roof to be replaced with flat roof.

Mr Simon Richardson – **Penllyne Bungalow, Llanmaes** – Change of use of the land to the rear and extensions to the property.

Mr Nathan Pursey – **28 Jestyn Close, Dinas Powys** – Single storey extension to front of existing property.

Dr David Trotman – **Penarth Pier Pavilion, The Esplanade, Penarth** – A new sign 'Penarth Pier Pavilion' above main entrance to the pavilion.

CEMEX UK Materials Ltd – **Whitehall Quarry, Wallston Road, Wenvoe** – Proposed continued implementation of planning permission 04/00700/FUL without compliance with condition No 1.

Mr and Mrs M Jenkins Welch – **23 Highwalls Avenue, Dinas Powys –** Single storey side and rear extension to provide kitchen and family living space.

Mr Alan Rose – **Rohan Store, Unit 3, Birds Lane, Cowbridge –** Aluminium sign with illuminated lettering.

Mr Paul Silcox – **99 Main Road, Ogmore by Sea** – Proposed alterations and single storey extension.

Mr John Western – **Brooklands, Pen y Lan Road, Aberthin** – Single storey extension to the rear of the property, incorporating roof dormer extensions and the rebuilding and relocation of the separate garage.

Mr David Messer – **50 Longmeadow Drive, Dinas Powys** – Demolish existing sun lounge and construct single storey flat roofed extension.

Mr Jason Wells – **40 Cedar Way, Penarth** – Proposed single and two storey rear extension.

Mr Richard Ace – **1 Seys Close, Cowbridge** – Rear dormer extension.

Mr and Mrs Trivett – **Parc Coed Machen Farm, St Brides Super Ely** – Demolition of one and a half storey annexe with integral single storey cavity wall lean-to extension, garage and carport.

Mr Isaac Benjuya – **Land off Middlegate Court, Cowbridge** – To provide car parking for up to 22 cars, with bridged access across ditch, incorporating landscaping (renewal of 2009/00136/Ful).

Mrs Beryl Wilhelm – **60 Churchfields, Barry** – First floor extension to form new bedroom.

Mr Christos Tsakiris – **3 Llwyn Passat, Portway Marina, Penarth** – Proposed balcony to front elevation.

Mr Matthew Williams – **Craig yr Allt, Llancarfan** – Single storey rear extension.

Fat Face Ltd – **Unit 1, Birds Lane, Cowbridge** – One fascia sign and one projecting sign.

Silver Crescent Estates Ltd – **42 Clive Place, Penarth** – Proposed demolition of existing single and two storey rear annexes and rebuilding of two storey extension to rear of property, plus carport and bin store.

Mr H Navidi – **Mill Barns, Boverton, Llantwit Major** – Change of use of summerhouse to independent dwelling including access, parking and residential curtilage, mill barns.

Mr Andrew Whitley – **Birchbrook, Trerhyngyll** – Change of use of small parcel of agricultural land to domestic garden within the curtilage of Birchbrook and the erection of two sheds on the land. Change of use to allow the siting of two shepherds' huts and the construction of two wooden cabins to provide holiday accommodation.

Mr T Zeraschi – **Forest Cafe, Porthkerry Park, Barry** – Extension and alterations to existing cafe and associated works.

Mrs Sarah Thomas – **33 South Road, Sully** – Single storey flat roof extension to rear of property, approximately 3.1m x 3.2m.

Mrs Natalie Isaac – **April Cottage, Church Road, Llanblethian, Cowbridge** – Demolish existing detached garage and construct first floor extension, porch and alterations.

Ms Cer Pearce – **41 Hewell Street, Penarth** – Retrospective planning application for regularisation of unauthorised rear single storey extension.

Mr Peter Hiscock – **The Grange, Llantwit Major Road, Llysworney** – Single storey orangery style extension.

Mrs Weeding – **3 Heol Ty Mawr, Pendoylan** – Remove suckers to T1 Oak; remove all suckers and repollard T2 Ash.

Mr P Burford – **56 Golwg y Coed, Barry** – Convert garage into a room and change up and over garage door for upvc French doors.

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL • CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG

Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act, 1990
Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Wales) Order 2012

Development that may affect a Conservation Area/ Datblygu a allai effeithio ar Ardal Gadwraeth

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2014/00367/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig: Relocation of existing radio transmitter
Location:/Lleoliad: Albert Road Primary School , Albert Road, Penarth
Conservation Area:/ Ardal Gadwraeth Penarth

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2014/00384/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: To provide car parking for up to 22 cars, with bridged access across ditch, incorporating landscaping (Renewal of 2009/00136/FUL)
Location:/Lleoliad: Land off Middlegate Court, Cowbridge
Conservation Area:/ Ardal Gadwraeth Cowbridge

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2014/00394/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Proposed demolition of existing single and two storey rear annexes and rebuilding of 2 storey extension to rear of property, plus carport and bin store
Location:/Lleoliad: 42, Clive Place, Penarth
Conservation Area:/ Ardal Gadwraeth Penarth

Conservation Area Consent / Caniatâd Ardal Gadwraeth

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2014/00395/CAC
Proposal:/Cynnig: Proposed demolition of existing single and two storey rear annexes and rebuilding of 2 storey extension to rear of property, plus carport and bin store
Location:/Lleoliad: 42, Clive Place, Penarth
Conservation Area:/ Ardal Gadwraeth Penarth

Listed Building Consent/Caniatâd Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2014/00367/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig: Relocation of existing radio transmitter
Location:/Lleoliad: Albert Road Primary School , Albert Road, Penarth
Listed Building:/ Adeilad Rhestredig Grade II

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2014/00425/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig: Repair fountain in Pompeii Garden
Location:/Lleoliad: Dyffryn Gardens, Dyffryn
Listed Building:/ Adeilad Rhestredig Grade II

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2014/00445/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig: Existing storm doors to be relocated down to ground level and 2 No external steps removed and part of floor removed internally; 2 No new step constructed along with an internal new DDA compliant ramp.
Location:/Lleoliad: Lloyds TSB Bank Plc, 1, Windsor Road, Penarth
Listed Building:/ Adeilad Rhestredig Grade II

Application(s) of General Interest/ Ceisiadau o Ddiddordeb Cyffredinol

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2014/00373/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Change of use of land to be utilised as burial ground on the land within the curtilage of Cardiff and Glamorgan Memorial Park and Crematorium
Location:/ Lleoliad: Cardiff and Glamorgan Memorial Park and Crematorium, Port Road East, Barry

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2014/00427/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Construction of a new synthetic turf pitch (STP) with associated features including lighting, fencing and new internal pedestrian access path arrangements
Location:/Lleoliad: Stanwell School, Archer Road, Penarth

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2014/00452/RES
Proposal:/Cynnig: Reserved Matters for 131 dwellings, including details of appearance, landscaping, layout and scale
Location:/Lleoliad: Land to the west of Port Road, Wenvoe

May affect a Public Right of Way/ Gall effeithio ar Hawl Tramwy Cyhoeddus

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2014/00373/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Change of use of land to be utilised as burial ground on the land within the curtilage of Cardiff and Glamorgan Memorial Park and Crematorium
Location:/Lleoliad: Cardiff and Glamorgan Memorial Park and Crematorium, Port Road East, Barry

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2014/00398/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Change of use to allow the siting of two shepherd's huts and the construction of two wooden cabins to provide holiday accommodation
Location:/Lleoliad: Land at Ty Cerrig, Maerdy Newydd, Bonvilston

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2014/00452/RES
Proposal:/Cynnig: Reserved Matters for 131 dwellings, including details of appearance, landscaping, layout and scale
Location:/Lleoliad: Land to the west of Port Road, Wenvoe

Details may be inspected for 21 days at the address given below, or via **http://vogonline.planning-register.co.uk/**

Gall manylion eu harchwilio am 21 diwrnod yn y cyfeiriad a roddir isod, neu drwy **http://vogonline.planning-register.co.uk/**

Dated / Dyddiedig: 8th May, 2014

M. Goldsworthy
Operational Manager Development & Building Control,
Vale of Glamorgan Council, Dock Office, Barry. CF63 4RT

ANOTHER BRACE FOR 'BRACEY'!

DAVID BRACE OBE, of the Dunraven Stud at Pyle, brought his season's tally of point-to-point wins to 15 with a double at the well attended Tredegar Farmers' Hunt Point-To-Point Steeplechases.

The first leg was initiated when his promising five-year-old Dbobe (the clue is in the name) won the confined under Bradley Gibbs who celebrated his 20th birthday on Monday.

Gibbs might well have had a three-timer had luck gone his way in two of the maiden races. In the first division of the young horse maiden, he rode JimJim Mac Cool which ran out after jumping the last in front.

Then, in the first division of the open maiden, his mount The Omen also led at the last but a sliding saddle proved his undoing. Nurse Brace, like Dbobe is only a five-year-old, and ridden by Tom David she led from start to finish to score by ten lengths from Moontripper (Bradley Gibbs).

The day's riding honours went to Matthew Barber who won the restricted on Keith Pritchard's homebred Prince Eleanor and the men's open on John Miles's Gallaflynn.

The former won by ten lengths from Rainbow Haze (Bradley Gibbs) and the latter, who was the outsider of four, outjumped his rivals to score by four lengths from Loose Performer (Robert Hawker).

In the ladies' open race, Roger Willcox's Lauberhorn and Anna Metekhoy looked like making it a five-timer only to fall at the last fence when well clear of Horsham Lad and Phine Banks who went on to score by four lengths from Teenage Kicks.

Carmen Goldsworthy's Bit Of A Crack, who won the best turned out horse award in division one of the young horse maiden, was a 20 lengths winner under Ogmore's Nick Williams.

VALE RIDERS' CHELTENHAM SUCCESS

Congratulations to the three riders from the Vale rode winners at the Cheltenham Hunter Chase meeting last week.

James Tudor was successful on Alan Hill's Sharp Suit, Evan David won on on Robert Luke's Chosen Milan and Nick Williams scored on Gareth Moore's Universal Soldier.

Beth Roberts's prolific Chesnut Annie took second place behind Theatre Queen in the mares' hunter chase.

BRIAN LEE

Liam shines in Rumble

ON Sunday, May 4, the Welsh Rumble took place at Warriors gym, Bridgend.

Fighters were matched at all levels in points, continuous and full contact fighting. The event was created by Master Jeff Copp.

Local youngster Liam Rees, age 16, was invited to fight for the Welsh kickboxing Union (W.K.U) Welsh Champion title fight.

Liam fell behind a few points during the first round, however he quickly gained points by using a full range of kickboxing skills, including two leg sweeps which gained him two points each!

By the second round Liam was a few points ahead of his opponent and was comfortably taking the lead.

At the third and final round Liam was way ahead in points and displayed outstanding talent and took the win and the title belt.

A fantastic performance from this young fighter once again.

LR

CALLING ALL CLUB OFFICIALS!

We welcome your reports, news and other items of interest - email us at: *gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk*

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NEW
CASTLE STREET, BARRY
Showroom presented, mid terraced, traditional bay fronted property. Two reception rooms, a modern fitted kitchen, ground floor bathroom, three bedrooms, w.c. cloakroom, decked rear garden.
£136,500

NEW
AFAL SUR, BARRY
Modern detached dwelling, well presented throughout, living room, modern fitted kitchen/diner. Three bedrooms, master ensuite, detached garage - parking, placed in a private road. EPC-E.
£199,950

NEW
APARTMENT 23, WINDSOR COURT, BARRY
Placed on the 3rd floor, one bedroomed apartment, approx 554.08 sq ft. Kitchen/diner, two bedrooms, family bathroom, lift. Gymnasium and residents lounge.
£99,950

NEW
LYDSTEP ROAD, BARRY
Well presented, semi detached, side access. Three bedrooms, living room, kitchen/diner, bathroom, driveway/parking, enclosed garden. EPC=E.
£134,950

NEW SOLD
BURNS CRESCENT, BARRY
Well presented, elevated end of terrace, modernised throughout. Three bedrooms, replacement kitchen & bathroom, UPV DG - GCH via combination boiler. Viewing highly recommended. EPC=D.
£97,950

NEW 2 FLATS
KINGSLAND CRESCENT, BARRY
Mid terraced, traditional property split into two apartments. Ground floor: communal entrance, living room, bedroom. First floor: living room, two bedrooms, kitchen and bathroom.
£94,985

NEW
WYNDHAM STREET, BARRY
Mid terraced traditional, three bedrooms, living/dining room. Ground floor shower room, enclosed rear garden, amidst local shops. Viewing highly recommended. EPC=C.
£119,950

NEW Offers Considered
RUTLAND CLOSE, BARRY
Detached dwelling, well presented. Living room, dining room, w.c. cloak room, fitted kitchen. Three bedrooms, enclosed rear garden, longer than average driveway. Viewing a must. EPC=C.
£194,950

NEW
HINCHSLIFF AVENUE, BARRY
Spacious three bedrooms, room to extend (subject to planning). Corner positioned, original block flooring, living room. Kitchen/diner. Driveway, parking. Front side & rear gardens.
£134,950

NEW
MOREL STREET, BARRY
Well presented throughout, mid terraced, traditional.Through living/dining room, fitted kitchen, ground floor shower room. Three bedrooms, enclosed rear garden, no chain - viewing essential.
£119,950

NEW
TATHAN CRESCENT, ST ATHAN
Detached dorma bunglalow, living room, dining room. Ground floor bathroom, fitted kitchen/breakfast area. Three bedrooms, family shower room, driveway/garage. No chain, viewing advised, freehold dwelling.
£184,950

NEW PRICE
HAWTHORN ROAD, BARRY
Detached, 3 bedrooms, 2 reception rooms, 1 bathroom, garage, vacant possession, no chain. EPC-C.
£209,950

NEW Garden Apartment
ARTHUR STREET, BARRY
Two bedrooms, coach house, living room, kitchen overlooking rear. Family bathroom, allocated parking, enclosed garden, no chain.
£109,950

NEW
BURNS CRESCENT, BARRY
Three bedroomed, semi detached, two reception rooms, fitted kitchen, enclosed rear garden, upvc dg - gc heating, no chain, in need of modernisation.
£89,950

NEW CASH ONLY
CILGANT Y MEILION, BARRY
Cash buyer only, four bedroomed, modern detached. Needs modernising to make it habitable, external viewing of the property only.
£160,000

NEW SEA VIEWS
MARINE DRIVE, BARRY
Far reaching sea views, stunning detached. Living room approx. 20ft, fitted kitchen opening to dining room. Ground floor shower room & first floor shower room. Four bedrooms - master ensuite bathroom, garage.
£380,000

SEA VIEWS
ST OSYTH COURT, BARRY
Apartment block with lift, two bedrooms, far reaching sea views, balcony. Replacement bathroom, replacement boiler via combi, modern fitted kitchen. UPVC D Glazed throughout, extended lease 999 yrs. EPC=C
£158,950

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3 Bedrooms
Garage
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£184,950 C69

NEW PRICE

Wine Street, Llantwit Major
2 Bedrooms
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West End Location
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Llanmaes Road, Llantwit Major
4 Bedrooms
High Specification Kitchen
Family Home
£345,000 D68

Llys Dwynwen, Llantwit Major
3 Bedrooms
Corner Position
Select Development
£209,995 C70

Harding Close, Boverton,
3 Bedrooms
75' Rear Garden
Garage
£135,000 D59

Crawshay Drive, Llantwit Major
3 Bedrooms
Garage
Enclosed Rear
£154,950 D60

NEW PRICE

Fitzhamon Avenue, Llantwit Major
3 Bedrooms, South Westerly Rear
Loft Room With Views
£149,950 C69

Rectory Court, Llanmaes, Llantwit Major
5 Bedrooms, 3 Receptions
Double Garage
£445,000 D67

Cardigan Crescent, Boverton, Llantwit Major
4 Bedrooms, 2 Receptions
Southerly Rear
£224,950 D58

Tathan Crescent, St Athan
3 Bedrooms
Extended
Rarely Available
£174,950 D59

Llanmaes Road, Llantwit Major
2 Bedrooms
Garage
Private Garden
£235,000 E52

Harding Close, Llantwit Major
4 Bedrooms
2 Receptions
Private Rear
£220,000 C69

Boverton Brook, Boverton
4 Bedrooms
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£349,950 E48

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4 Bedrooms
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£189,950 E50

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3 Bedrooms
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Roberts Close, St Athan
4 Bedrooms
Rural Views
20' Sitting Room
£169,950 F38

St Johns View, St Athan
2 Bedrooms
Backs onto Fields
Quiet Location
£143,995 E40

Lets!

Meadowcraft, Rhoose.
One Bed, Ground Floor, Electric Heating.
D68 - £395 PCM

Sea Point, Barry.
One Double Bedroom, Superb Channel Views, West End location. F32 - £475 PCM

Rhodfa'r Gwagenni, Barry.
Furnished, One Bed, Ground Floor Apartment. C75 - £475 PCM

Bullfinch Road, St Athan.
Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, GCH. D59 - £495 PCM

Lime Grove, St Athan.
Three Bedrooms, Conservatory, Enclosed Rear Garden. D64 - £550 PCM

High Street, Barry
Completely Refurbished
Modern Kitchen
Shower. C74 - £550 PCM

Cwrt Y Cadno, Llantwit Major.
Two Bedrooms, Conservatory, Driveway.
EPC - tbc. £575 PCM

Queen Street, Barry.
West End Location, Three Bedrooms, Shower. E49 - £595 PCM

Beaufort Way, Rhoose.
Two Bedrooms, Fully furnished, Utility Area.
D66 - £600 PCM

Trebeferad, Boverton
Semi-Detached, Three Bedrooms
Driveway. D57 - £625 PCM

Drake Close, St Athan
Three Bedrooms, Large Garden, Drive & Garage. E50 - £650 PCM

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Heol Y Leubren Barry • £219,950
Modern, detached house with open plan kitchen & breakfast room, laundry room, cloakroom, 2 receptions (one with French doors opening onto the patio) plus 4 bedrooms (master with en-suite) & family bathroom. Private, enclosed rear garden, integral garage & driveway. No onward chain.

Minster Close Barry • £177,500
4 bedroom, modern house with loft and garage conversions offering a fabulous master bedroom and second reception / playroom respectively. Also comprising a kitchen & breakfast room with patio doors, cloakroom /WC and family bathroom. Great family accommodation offering excellent value for money.

Beidr Iorwg, Barry • £224,950
Excellently proportioned, detached house arranged over 3 storeys and forming part of a quiet cul-de-sac. Spacious, open plan, kitchen / diner, laundry room, cloakroom, living room plus 4 bedrooms (master with en-suite) & family bathroom. Integral garage, driveway and enclosed, south facing garden.

Pencoedtre Village Barry • £249,950
Detached, executive style home standing on a quiet corner plot with landscaped garden, large driveway and double garage. Also offering 2 reception rooms, kitchen & breakfast room, cloakroom, 4 bedrooms (master with en-suite) and family bathroom. uPVC double glazing & gas fired heating.

Porty -Y-Castell Barry • £399,950
Well presented, 4 bed detached house enjoying an elevated position with panoramic sea views. Also comprising 3 receptions, kitchen, utility room & cloakroom plus driveway & garage. Close to The Cold Knap, Romilly & Porthkerry Country Parks, schools, public transport & local amenities.

Harding Close Boverton • £135,000
Great opportunity to acquire a well presented, 3 bed house close to local amenities, schools and public transport. Large, modern, kitchen / diner with french doors opening onto the rear patio, spacious living room with open stairs, 3 beds and tastefullly decorated bathroom.

Station Court, Dinas Powys • £192,000
Exclusive, 5 apartment development located on the fringe of the square, in the heart of the old village. Stylish, top floor accommodation comprising entrance hallway, two double bedrooms (master with en-suite), bathroom, kitchen and impressive living area. Dedicated parking & communal garden.

Brooklands, Dinas Powys • £224,500
2 double bedroom apartment presented in show home condition. Master bedroom with en-suite & dressing area, bathroom, kitchen and dining room with open stairs leading to the galleried mezzanine with vaulted ceiling and skylights. Substantial communal gardens and secure car park with automatic gates.

Cae'r Odyn, Dinas Powys • £224,500
Extended property offering a family orientated kitchen / diner and 2 receptions, both with French doors opening onto the garden. Also a 4th, impressive bedroom with vaulted ceiling, velux windows and fitted wardrobe. 3 further bedrooms, living room, bathroom, car port and driveway parking.

St Ambrose Close, Dinas Powys • £237,500
Extended family home offering generous accommodation, including three reception rooms, large kitchen, conservatory, five bedrooms, family bathroom, driveway and pleasant, enclosed rear garden. Close proximity to the train station and a short walk from local amenities and the village Square.

Station Road, Dinas Powys • £264,950
Converted & refurbished period property standing in the heart of the Village Square. Boasting 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, large reception & open plan kitchen / diner. Re-developed in c.2003 by Andton Group to provide a pair of houses offering contemporary accommodation with hi-specification finishes.

Windyridge, Dinas Powys • £369,950
A fabulous, detached, 4 bedroom family residence enjoying an elevated position with fantastic views. Extremely generous accommodation extending to almost 2,000 sq ft and comprising 2 huge reception rooms, a dining room, kitchen, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms and double garage with driveway.

Highwalls Avenue, Dinas Powys • £369,950
Edwardian residence offering two principle reception rooms, kitchen & adjoining breakfast room, four bedrooms, family bathroom, driveway & enclosed gardens with raised terrace overlooking the golf course. Close to the village square and presently the only house available on Highwalls Avenue or Road.

Cross Common, Dinas Powys • £455,000
A rare opportunity to acquire a detached, 4/5 bed dormer bungalow enjoying a large corner plot within close proximity of schools, amenities and public transport, including Dinas Powys Railway Station. The large plot and configuration also offers the potential to extend, subject to planning.

Westra, Dinas Powys • £549,950
Former Gentleman Farmer's residence, nestling in approximately 1 acre, located on the fringe of Dinas Powys. 4 bed main house with adjoining annex (2 self-contained flats). Huge potential & rare opportunity to merge and re-configure the two parts to form a larger, substantial, c.6 bedroom residence.

Cross Common Road, Dinas Powys • £765,000
Comprehensively refurbished, traditional Welsh Longhouse with origins dating back to the15th century. The truly unique property nestles on the edge of the village, bordering open countryside and offers over 2,500 sq ft of family living accommodation including 4 / 5 bedrooms and 4 reception rooms.

Mill Road, Dinas Powys • £945,000
An outstanding, extended and upgraded period residence with detached garaging, set within grounds of 1.25 acres. Offering up to 6 / 7 bedrooms and potential for a self-contained annexe. A truly unique property, with origins dating back to 1426, situated within a short walk of the Village Square.

Foresters House, Leckwith • £495,000
Detached cottage with extensive ground floor accommodation, enjoying a rural & elevated position with far reaching views towards the Bristol Channel. Driveway with electric gates, landscaped gardens & extensive sun terrace. Potential to add additional 1st floor accommodation, subject to planning.

Church Road, Penarth • £112,500
2nd (top) floor flat, with pleasant views, forming part of a period conversion. Hallway, living room, kitchen, double bedroom & bathroom together with parking. Located on the fringe of the Town centre, within a short walk of the train station, seafront & pier. Ideal FTB or investment opportunity.

Elderberry House, Penmark • £459,500
Detached house with double garage, driveway & pleasant grounds forming part of an exclusive development within this small, traditional village. Also comprising 3 reception rooms, kitchen / breakfast room, utility room & cloakroom plus 4 bedrooms (master with dressing room & en-suite) and bathroom.

Great Thomas Close, Rhoose • £122,000
Modern, mid-terrace house with garage and dedicated parking located on a quiet cul de sac within this popular modern development, close to Rhoose village and the railway station (with regular services direct to Cardiff). Large kitchen/diner, living room, 2 bedrooms, bathroom, garden and garage.

Cwm Ciddy Cottage & Stables, Rhoose • £457,500
Extended and sympathetically refurbished, Grade II Listed cottage with separate c.2 acre paddock and stable block. Well planned living accommodation with 2 principle receptions, study, kitchen, utility and cloakroom plus 3 double bedrooms and family bathroom. Large grounds with garage / outbuilding.

Cog Road, Sully • £304,950
Upgraded & extended, 4 bedroom, detached residence located on the prestigious Cog Road. Superbly presented throughout & comprising 2 receptions, kitchen, dining room, utility room, cloakroom & large conservatory. Also 4 bedrooms, bathroom, pleasant front & rear gardens plus driveway for 4 cars.

South Road, Sully • £475,000
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Springfield Close, Wenvoe • £379,950
Detached, executive, 4 double bedroom property with 3 reception rooms, well appointed kitchen, utility room & family bathroom. Substantial, full width conservatory with broad openings to the kitchen and 3rd reception forming a large, open plan living space. Private driveway & landscaped courtyard.

Old Port Road, Wenvoe • £499,000
4 / 5 bedroom, detached, dormer bungalow, improved by the owners to include high quality, contemporary finishes. Large kitchen & breakfast room, principle reception with conservatory extension, master bedroom with en-suite, family bathroom, utility & shower rooms. Set within a large, private plot.

Ambrose Close, Dinas Powys • £249,000
Extended property offering generous living accommodation including 2 reception rooms, spacious kitchen & breakfast room, ground floor WC, five bedrooms (master with en-suite) & family bathroom. The house also enjoys a large plot with front driveway, integral garage & sizeable, enclosed rear garden.

Cae Gwyn, Penarth • £177,500
Immaculately presented property with living room, kitchen / diner, cloakroom, two double bedrooms and bathroom plus beautifully landscaped, low maintanence garden, garage with driveway. Quiet cul de sac location forming part of this popular estate. Excellent first time buy opportunity.

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VALE of GLAMORGAN BRO MORGANNWG

NOTICE OF MAKING OF AN ORDER HIGHWAYS ACT 1980 THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL (PUBLIC FOOTPATH NO 39 ST ANDREWS MAJOR) PUBLIC PATH EXTINGUISHMENT ORDER 2014

Bydd y gorchymyn uchod a wnaethpwyd ar 15 Ebrill 2014, o dan Adran 118 Deddf Priffyrdd 1980, yn dileu rhan o Lwybr Troed Cyhoeddus 39 yn Saint Andras sy'n rhedeg o GGC 31236 17042 hyd at GGC 31238 17059, fel y'i dangosir ar fap y gorchymyn.

Mae copïau o'r gorchymyn a map y gorchymyn wedi'u gosod, a chewch eu gweld yn rhad ac am ddim yn Swyddfa'r Doc, Dociau'r Barri, Y Barri, CF63 4RT yn ystod oriau swyddfa arferol. Cewch brynu copïau o'r map a'r gorchymyn yn y fan honno am £4.50.

Cewch wneud sylwadau ar y gorchymyn neu'i wrthwynebu drwy ysgrifennu llythyr at Gyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau Datblygu Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, Swyddfa'r Doc, Dociau'r Barri, Y Barri, CF63 4RT erbyn 5 Mehefin 2014, a dylech nodi eich rhesymau dros wneud y sylwadau.

Os na ddaw sylwadau neu wrthwynebiadau i law, neu os caiff y rhai a dderbyniwyd eu tynnu'n ôl, bydd Cyngor Bro Morgannwg yn rhydd i gadarnhau bod y gorchymyn yn ddiwrthwynebiad. Os caiff y gorchymyn ei anfon at Weinidogion Cymru ar gyfer ei gadarnhau, bydd y sylwadau a'r gwrthwynebiadau nas tynnwyd yn ôl, yn cael eu hanfon ar yr un pryd.

Dyddiedig 8 Mai 2014

The above order, made on the 15th day of April 2014, under Section 118 of the Highways Act 1980, will extinguish part of Public Footpath No 39 St Andrews Major running from NGR 31236 17042 to NGR 31238 17059 as shown on the order map.

A copy of the order and the order map have been placed and may be seen free of charge at The Docks Office, Barry Docks, Barry, CF63 4RT during normal office hours. Copies of the order and map may be bought there at the price of £4.50.

Any representations about or objections to the order may be sent in writing to the Director of Development Services, Docks Office, Barry Docks, Barry, CF63 4RT not later than the 5th day of June 2014. Please state the grounds on which they are made.

If no such representations or objections are duly made, or if any so made are withdrawn, the Vale of Glamorgan Council may confirm the order as an unopposed order. If the order is sent to the Welsh Ministers for confirmation any representations and objections which have not been withdrawn will be sent with the order.

Dated this 8th day of May 2014

RHYBUDD O WNEUD GORCHYMYN DEDDF PRIFFYRDD 1980 CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG (LLWYBR TROED CYHOEDDUS 43 SAINT ANDRAS) GORCHYMYN GWYRO LLWYBR CYHOEDDUS 2014

VALE of GLAMORGAN BRO MORGANNWG

NOTICE OF MAKING OF AN ORDER HIGHWAYS ACT 1980 THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL (PUBLIC FOOTPATH NO 43 ST ANDREWS MAJOR) PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION ORDER 2014

Bydd y gorchymyn uchod a wnaethpwyd ar 15 Ebrill 2014, o dan Adran 119 Deddf Priffyrdd 1980, yn gwyro Llwybr Troed Cyhoeddus 43 yn Saint Andras, sy'n rhedeg rhwng CGR 31251 17043 a ChGR 31238 17059 hyd at linell sy'n cysylltu CGR 31251 17043 a ChGR 31238 17059, fel y'i dangosir ar fap y gorchymyn.

Mae copïau o'r gorchymyn a map y gorchymyn wedi'u gosod, a chewch eu gweld yn rhad ac am ddim yn Swyddfa'r Doc, Dociau'r Barri, Y Barri, CF63 4RT yn ystod oriau swyddfa arferol. Cewch brynu copïau o'r map a'r gorchymyn yn y fan honno am £4.50.

Cewch wneud sylwadau ar y gorchymyn neu'i wrthwynebu drwy ysgrifennu llythyr at Gyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau Datblygu Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, Swyddfa'r Doc, Dociau'r Barri, Y Barri, CF63 4RT erbyn 5 Mehefin 2014, a dylech nodi eich rhesymau dros ymateb.

Os na ddaw sylwadau neu wrthwynebiadau i law, neu os caiff y rhai a dderbyniwyd eu tynnu'n ôl, bydd Cyngor Bro Morgannwg yn rhydd i gadarnhau bod y gorchymyn yn ddiwrthwynebiad. Os caiff y gorchymyn ei anfon at Weinidogion Cymru ar gyfer ei gadarnhau, bydd y sylwadau a'r gwrthwynebiadau nas tynnwyd yn ôl, yn cael eu hanfon ar yr un pryd.

Dyddiedig 8 Mai 2014

The above order, made on the 15th day of April 2014, under Section 119 of the Highways Act 1980, will divert the Public Footpath No 43 St Andrews Major running from NGR 31251 17043 to NGR 31238 17059 to a line running from NGR 31251 17043 to NGR 31238 17059 as shown on the order map.

A copy of the order and the order map have been placed and may be seen free of charge at The Docks Office, Barry Docks, Barry, CF63 4RT during normal office hours. Copies of the order and map may be bought there at the price of £4.50.

Any representations about or objections to the order may be sent in writing to the Director of Development Services, Docks Office, Barry Docks, Barry, CF63 4RT not later than the 5th day of June 2014. Please state the grounds on which they are made.

If no such representations or objections are duly made, or if any so made are withdrawn, the Vale of Glamorgan Council may confirm the order as an unopposed order. If the order is sent to the Welsh Ministers for confirmation any representations and objections which have not been withdrawn will be sent with the order.

Dated this 8th day of May 2014

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Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICE
LICENSING ACT 2003

To whom it may concern,

We, **James Bagnell & Matthew Mazzitelli**, hereby give notice that we have applied to The Licensing Authority (Vale of Glamorgan Council) for the grant of a premises licence at **Llantwit Major Rugby Field.**

The application is to permit regulated entertainment such as: **Live Music, Recorded Music, Performances of Dance. 1400 to 2200 hrs for one Saturday in July every year (2014 date - Saturday 12th July).**

Any person(s) wishing to make representations to this application may do so in writing to the Licensing Department, Vale of Glamorgan Council, Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry CF63 4RU, not later than 28 days after the date of this notice.

Representations received after this date will not be considered. A copy of the application can be viewed at the Civic Offices during normal office hours.

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with this application. The maximum fine on summary conviction being £5,000.

Dated May 6, 2014.

Family Notices

EDWARDS
Doris

Peacefully at home with her family in Sigingstone, Doris, widow of the late Glyn. Loving mother of Jonathan and Julie, mother-in-law to Alan and Lynn. Grandmother of Kate, Nicholas, Elizabeth, Sarah and Rebecca, great-grandmother of Hollie, loving sister of Marion.

She will be sadly missed by all family and friends.

Thank you to Dr Jemmett and Partners for their care and to Karen and Pam and to all the staff at Angel Care.

Funeral Service at St Michaels Church, Llanmihangel on Monday, 12th May at 1pm, family flowers only.

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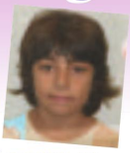
Birthdays

Happy 40th Birthday
Sarah Barlow
on 17 May
Have a great party
Lots of love
Megan & Tomos, Mum & Dad
and all the family

Hannah Sage
To our beautiful grandaughter Happy 18th Birthday on May 7th



Love you so much from **Nannie & Grandad** *xxx*

Happy 18th Birthday!
Hannah Sage
on May 7
A LOVING DAUGHTER AND SISTER.
Love from Mum, Steve, Andrew, Emily & Faye xxx

Hannah Sage
HAPPY 18TH BIRTHDAY ON 7TH MAY
With all our love, Uncle Phil, Auntie Sue, Luke and Evie; Aaron, Kirsty and Ava. XXX

Happy 85th Birthday
to FRED MORGAN
on 9th May
Love from Pauline, Peter & all the family xx

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Happy Birthday
Sarah Smith
on 1st January
Photo
Love from **Mum, Dad & family** *xxx*

Articles For Sale

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'Start walking into healthy future!' MP URGES

OGMORE MP Huw Irranca-Davies attended an event hosted by the Ramblers last week – to discuss how they can help to build a 'walking Britain'.

The Ramblers held the reception in Parliament to put walking high up on the agenda ahead of the general election in 2015 and highlight why people should vote for a walking Britain.

Nicky Philpott, Ramblers Director of Policy and Campaigns, said: "We'd like to thank Huw for joining us to talk about how we can build a walking Britain. Walking offers an effective, low-cost solution to many of the problems we face. It's good for our mental and physical health and therefore reduces healthcare costs, it supports local economies and it's good for the environment and your local neighbourhood."

In order to build a walking Britain, the Ramblers is calling for the Government to help promote an active, healthy lifestyle, protect the places people walk and improve access to the outdoors.

Huw Irranca-Davies said: "I was delighted to attend the Ramblers' reception and hear about how they hope to create a Walking Britain. I am an avid supporter of this much loved pastime and am privileged to be president of the Glamorgan Ramblers and a vice-president of Ramblers Cymru.

"One of my last great walks was a sponsored 50-mile walk 'beating the bounds' of the Ogmore constituency.

"Walking is a really beneficial activity but it is sometimes overlooked and many of the benefits are not being fully realised. The next Government must work to rectify this and fully exploit the value of walking across departments.

"As my party develops its manifesto for next year's general election, I will be working with colleagues to ensure we include policies which fully embrace the benefits that walking can offer, so that we can help build a healthier, happier Britain."

Regional AM says 'A48 in an appalling state'

TORY Regional AM Andrew RT Davies on Tuesday spoke in the Assembly of the "appalling and unacceptable" state of parts of the Bridgend to Cardiff stretch of the A48.

He called for guidance from the Welsh Government over responsibility for the maintenance of major roads, including the A48.

He also claimed that more needed to be done to repair and maintain the route.

The A48 is a Welsh Government 'trunk road' meaning that they have ultimate responsibility for its maintenance. However, this is often contracted or delegated to local authorities.

Mr Davieshas asked for a statement on the arrangements between the Welsh Government and the local authority, with particular reference to the stretch between Bridgend and Cardiff.

Mr Davies said: "The A48 is a key gateway between Cardiff and the Vale, serving one of Wales' busiest commutes. In some stretches the road is an appalling and totally unacceptable state.

"The large potholes on the A48 could lead to dangerous accidents if left to decline further as well as long term damage to vehicles.

"Like many other Vale residents I use this road on a daily basis to get to work and it is clear that large sections of the A48 need extensive work.

"A considerable sum of public money was spent on controversial changes to the traffic lights at the Sycamore Junction, but it is clear that greater investment needs to go into resurfacing.

"The Bridgend to Cardiff section is particularly bad and it is pretty clear that its upkeep has been neglected in the last couple of years."

The Business Minister has said that the Welsh Government will be issuing a written statement in the near future.

A FLYING START FOR YOUNGSTERS

CHILDREN who attend Bridgend County Borough Council's Flying Start facilities enjoyed the fun of the farm on a trip to 'Wiggleys' near Cefn Cribwr.

The near 200 youngsters from Caerau, Plasnewydd, Bettws, Brackla and Afon y Felin had a fun day out exploring the farm and playing games, and Flying Start staff hope to make the trip an annual event.

Flying Start is the Welsh Government's targeted Early Years programme for families with children aged under four years of age in some of the most disadvantaged areas of Wales.

Facilities offer eligible parents free quality childcare for two to three year olds, parenting support, an enhanced health visitor service and help for early language development. To find out more about Flying Start, visit www.bridgend.gov.uk.

Sully Sports win out in local derby

GREAT playing conditions meant this local derby between Sully Sports and Old Penarthians produced the goods.

Both teams played fast open attacking rugby, and defended with crunching, no quarter tackles.

The referee played his part, allowing good advantage, and not overreacting to the few minor feisty moments. The game ebbed and flowed, with neither team dominating for long periods.

The Old Pens showed a lot of class in the open, with their three-quarters showing deft handling, support and off-loading skills, backed up with pace and intelligent angles of running.

Sully Sports held the upper hand up front, which eventually gave them the platform, and possession, to earn victory. Their scrum was immense, putting the Old Pens in great difficulty at the set pieces, and also at the breakdown area.

The forwards driving played a major role in wearing down the stubborn Old Pens defence, and provided plenty of good ball for the backs.

Despite an early failed long distant penalty attempt by Sully Sports, the visitors had the better of the opening 10 minutes, but gradually the Sports seized the initiative over the 15 minutes, and ran in tries from No 8 Jonathon Blake and winger Dave Stillman, with outside-half Chris Cummings adding one conversion.

The game then swung back to the visitors, and by halftime they tied the scores with two very good tries and a conversion of their own.

At the start of the second period, the Sports re-asserted its grip, with flanker Adam Wheeler and Dave Stillman grabbing tries, both converted by Cummings.

True to form, back came the Old Pens who reduced the arrears with a scintillating converted try, with ball being run out of their own half.

The pressure was now on the Sports, and after showing true mettle in defence, they slowly regained the upper hand, as the forwards stepped up to again seize the lion's share of possession.

With 10 minutes left, Wheeler got his second try, converted by Cummings, and the game was safe. Lock Alex Szuchnik was unlucky to have a late try disallowed, as the referee spotted a forward pass just short of the line.

The Old Pens failed to successfully get out of defence, then were penalised, and Cummings ensured a victory, that was not as comfortable as the 36-19 scoreline suggested, by kicking the penalty goal.

CLUB NOTICES

Following Saturday, there are still four re-arranged league games left to complete the season.

The first of these was due to be played last night (Wednesday) at home against Cardiff Saracens, and the second away to New Panteg, on Saturday, May 10. The other two league games, both against St Albans, are still subject to confirmation.

The season is due to end, on Saturday, May 24, with the club due to host a West Country touring team.

The club celebrates its 50th anniversary next season, and a number of special fixtures and celebratory events have already been booked.

Information will be published as appropriate, but would past players, and members, who would be interested in attending/sponsoring, please contact one of the club's committee.

One of the main events will be a black tie event to take place on Saturday, November 15, and bookings are now being taken.

MJS

Albion win

BARRY ALBION completed their 2013-2014 season with a win over Cardiff Airport.

They would like to thank Da Gennaro Restaurante Italiano of High Street Barry for their sponsorship and donation of the team kit, JJ Windows for the sponsorship of the player leisurewear and also Happy Embroidery of Dinas Powys for their contribution and printing of the Barry Albion player polos and match jackets.

Most important of all though, the club would like to thank every single player who has represented the club during the season.

LJ

Family time at tennis club!

LAST Saturday saw the launch of an exciting new free initiative at Barry Tennis Club, where parents and children get on court together.

From 10am – 10.45am, parents and their younger children (ages three-seven years) can enjoy some fun games to help children develop their agility, balance and coordination skills, which can be applied to all aspects of physical development, but with a specific focus on tennis.

Parents are fully engaged in the session (so dress appropriately and expect to use some of your own energy), and children love the on-court interaction where mums and dads have to do the same as them.

An additional benefit is that parents pick up some ideas on activity games appropriate to their child's stage of development that they can practice at home, and the parental role-model will have long-lasting effects on the child's willingness to engage in sporting activities.

In the later session, 10.45-11.30am, older children and their parents take to the courts for age-appropriate games and skills development, as well as mini tennis matchplay, in which the children compete against the grown-ups!

These sessions are running again for the next two weeks (May 10 and 17) and are completely free of charge to everyone.

If you'd like to take part or find out more, please call Penny on 07816 311263 or follow the club on Facebook or Twitter.

The new tennis season was launched with a well-attended open day at Barry Tennis Club last week, where established and prospective members, young and not-so-young players, enjoyed a variety of on court activities and off-court refreshments.

Mini-tennis courts were set-up for youngsters to try out games specially devised for children to develop a taste for the game and learn skills appropriate to their age and stage of development, while for the grown-ups there was a ball machine to challenge their reflexes, as well as a fun tournament in which over 40 players competed late into the afternoon.

The weather favoured the club too, with rain showers holding off until the final of the tournament was almost decided (this didn't deter the hardy players though, who battled through the elements).

The clubhouse was a hive of activity and the club was delighted to welcome many newcomers with enquiries about activities and membership.

While last year the club celebrated its centenary year, and applauded its past achievements, this year was all about looking to the future and planning for successes yet to come.

The club caters for all ages and abilities, and whether you want to meet new people, get a bit more mobile, enjoy a sporting activity with your children, or get into one of our teams, the club has something for everyone.

Follow the club on Facebook or Twitter, check out the website www.barrytennis.co.uk, or call Penny on 07816 311263 to find out more.

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Cup joy for Llantwit Major under-14s

ABOVE: The winning Llantwit Major under-14s team and RIGHT: Picking up the cup!

LAST Thursday saw Llantwit Major under-14s triumph against awful conditions, very strong opponents in Cadoxton, and tired bodies, after being made to play the final the day after the majority of the squad were involved in the Cardiff and Vale Schools final.

Victory was made even sweeter after having lost the previous year's final in extra time and the league the season before in a final match decider. These near misses in previous seasons gave Llantwit a steely determination not to let another opportunity for silverware slip by and this was evident from the way they went about the match.

The first half kicked off in awful conditions with heavy rain falling and standing water soon appearing but this did not stop Llantwit playing good passing football whenever they could.

The opening 20 minutes were very tight, but Llantwit, cheered on by some very vocal and positive support, fashioned a couple of chances for Moses Gee and Ben Boyd, but unfortunately neither effort troubled the Cadoxton keeper, with Gee's effort going wide off his less favoured left foot and Ben just failing to get over a headed effort from a corner.

Cadoxton, unbeaten all season, weren't just there to make up the numbers though and soon fashioned an outstanding chance of their own. After a bit of pinball and very wet bounces the Cadoxton centreforward found himself eight yards out with a free shot on goal, only for Joe Baker to pull off an absolutely outstanding point blank save that had everyone in Jenner Park shouting in either celebration or disbelief, depending on who they were supporting!

Disappointingly for Llantwit the resulting corner resulted in Cadoxton taking the lead when Llantwit watched a deep corner go over their heads and allowed an easy tap in at the far post.

Heads could easily have gone down and legs were heavy, especially after the previous night's game, but Llantwit settled right back into their game and started dominating possession and territory for the rest of the half.

As pitch conditions worsened and halftime approached, Llantwit's pressure paid off when persistence from Moses Gee set Ben Boyd up for a shot on goal and although not the sweetest strike of his very prolific season, it was enough to beat the keeper and goalmouth puddles and cross the line.

Llantwit took to the field for the second half with the coaches' warning to start the second half as they'd finished the first still ringing in their ears, and they certainly must have listened as within a couple of minutes of the restart Laurence Bowman yet again broke up play in midfield, strode forward and played a defence splitting ball into the right channel for Angus Mitchell to take in his stride, take into the area and slot expertly to the right of the flatfooted keeper to make it 2-1.

Before Cadoxton had chance to regroup Llantwit were at them again and some great passing and moving from the central midfielders, especially considering the pitch conditions, led to the influential Lewis Brown setting up Moses Gee on the right of the area and he expertly finished past the keeper.

Although Cadoxton never gave up, their heads were down and they started relying on long balls down the middle which Cole Baker, Ryan Malton, James Cook and captain Declan Ellis in the Llantwit defence dealt with with ease.

Llantwit continued to look dangerous on the break with Luke Beattie constantly looking to spring attacks from his holding midfield role and the ever-impressive Angus Mitchell never stopping running and keeping the opposition defence under constant pressure.

Llantwit were embarking on another dangerous break when the referee blew for full time, resulting in wild cheers and celebrations from the Llantwit players and supporters.

A cup win achieved by playing good positive passing football and despite a tough build up was massively deserved for this very talented squad of players who all contributed over a rollercoaster cup run - well done lads! **MB**

FINE BEGINNING FOR VALE FIRSTS

VALE Firsts commenced their 2014 league campaign at home against Monmouth.

Having won the toss, Vale skipper Nick Hogben had no hesitation in inserting the opposition on a wicket still showing signs of dampness from the heavy rain on Thursday.

Vale's opening attack of Ollie Pike and Hogben bowled tightly as a succession of maidens made life difficult for the Monmouth opening batsmen, with only 10 runs coming from the first 12 overs.

Although no wickets fell in this period, immense pressure had been applied with only six runs coming off the bat and six of the 12 overs maidens.

Youth was replaced with experience in the shape of Mark Francis and Darren Upham and it was Francis who made the initial breakthroughs, inducing a series of catches.

Upham was rock solid under a top edge, Chris Bradshaw showed all his former full back skills holding on to a towering catch at mid on and Hogben safely pouched a catch at cover.

Upham struck once at the pavillion end, with stand in wicketkeeper Paul Sheppard holding an excellent catch standing up to the wicket.

At the end of their spells, Francis had taken 3-26 and Upham 1-19 with Monmouth 44-4 after 24 overs. Two of last season's successful under-15s Luke John, making his debut for the first team, and Billy Yates, were then introduced into the attack as Monmouth skipper Turner valiantly set about trying to recover the Monmouth innings.

Yates struck twice with his slow left arm spin, aided by Bradshaw again holding on to a good catch, to finish with figures of 2-25 off his 10 overs. Hogben returned to bowl at the death and ended Turner's 59-ball stay, bowling him for 39. The Monmouth innings closed on 136-7 from 50 overs.

JP Davies and Matthew Gilbert built a steady start for Vale with a partnership worth 30 before Davies was caught for 12 in the 12th over. This brought man of the match Yates to the wicket and he provided the aggression as Gilbert settled into the anchor role.

This was an excellent combination and a valuable 54-run partnership was ended when Gilbert tried a slog sweep and was adjudged lbw for 20.

However, Vale were in great shape and Yates was showing wonderful maturity despite his youth. His maiden 50 for the club came off 78 balls, which with his bowling, had been a match-winning effort. Having reached his 50, a loss of concentration saw him depart and skipper Hogben soon followed him back to the pavilion, holing out to another catch.

However, Vale were not to be denied and the ever reliable Sheppard (19 not out) and Ollie Pike, who hit the winning run, saw Vale home with seven overs to spare.

This was an excellent start by Vale with a disciplined bowling performance, good fielding and a well-orchestrated chase bringing them 17 points.

What was as pleasing was that three members of last season's successful under-15s side made contributions to the win, with another two of that side ready to step into the first team if required to do so.

With other senior players soon to return, Vale can expect to be highly competitive in the promotion chase and will hope for a quick return to Division 2. **MF**

Sully bridge club

SULLY Bridge Club have just enjoyed a most successful week of attendance by its members.

On Monday, there were 14 full tables - 56 members - and on Wednesday 13 full tables - 52 members. In all, some 108 members came along to enjoy an afternoon of competitive and social Bridge.

The results for these two sessions are as follows:

Monday, April 28, North/South - 1st Peter Millar/ Chris Davies 61.86; 2nd Pat Evans/Jane Greatrex 59.94; 3rd Anne Johns/Joan Andrews 50.13.

East/West - 1st Peter Blackwell/Mary Blackwell 60.58; 2nd Marjorie Morgan/Helen Jordan 58.01; 3rd Richard Allely/Camelia Keegan 55.13.

Wednesday, April 30, North/South - 1st Peter Millar/ Trish Tracy 65.38; 2nd Anne Johns/Bunty Wiseman 64.42; 3rd Ev Kerslake/Judy Collins 57.85.

East/West - 1st Carol James/Alan James 65.71; 2nd Hazel Craig/Peter Craig 55.77; 3rd Anne Macdougal/Anne Hilary Jones 54.81. **EK**

Centurions fall short

SULLY CENTURIONS 1st XI lost an exciting encounter with Brecon at Burnham Avenue, in spite of an epic fight back by the bowlers.

Batting first, Sully lost several early wickets and were on 37/5 in the 12th over. But some fine batting by Tom Edwards (36) and newcomer Haris Binikram (30) gave the home score some respectability.

Nathan Cuddihy, with a cameo 8 not out at the end, helped take the score along to 126 all out in the 49th over. For Brecon, Williams, with a marvellous 6 for 19, and Phillips (3 for 15) did the damage.

The Brecon innings started shakily with skipper Lloyd Bruce removing Webber for just four with the score on 11. This was followed by Adam Sylvester trapping Kenchington lbw for 1, with just three more runs added to the total.

But a couple of decent stands for the third and fourth wickets helped the visitors to stay on top. Opener Smith continued to play his shots and was always a danger.

By the time Tom Edwards had taken the second of his two wickets, Brecon had reached 78 for 4 and looked to be cruising to victory. But a quick flurry of wickets courtesy of Nick Jones (3 for 22) and Pavel (1 for 32) had Brecon reeling.

The final breakthrough was not to come and it was fitting that Smith, who carried his bat for 52, should hit the winning runs.

A defeat, but this young team can take heart from the performance and the way in which they refused to give in until the end. Centurions 126 all out Brecon 129/8.

The seconds made the short journey to Dinas Powys with only nine men and were on the receiving end of a hiding, losing by nine wickets.

Having lost the toss Centurions were asked to bat on a damp wicket. This was to prove crucial as wickets began to fall with regularity – only veteran captain Dave Sylvester reached double figures as the home side pressed home their advantage.

He was last man out on 17 when the innings ended on a paltry 51 all out. The wickets were shared between the bowlers with Clogg (2-8) and Mitchell (2-2) being the pick of the attack.

The Dinas innings got off to a slow start with Joe Hayer and Reece Bennett bowling a tight line. Hayer got the breakthrough, having Dimarov caught by Luke Burnett for just 2, with the score on 4.

Both bowlers plugged away but with only 51 runs to defend and big gaps in the field caused by fielding with only nine men, it was an uphill struggle. Reece Bennett could count himself unfortunate not to have had any victims as he beat the bat several times with no luck.

Dinas took only 14 overs to reach the target without any further loss of wickets. Dinas Powys 57/1 Centurions 51 all out

This week's games are against Pontymister, with the 2nd XI at home and the 1sts travelling.

The May 100 Club winners are number 50 (Dave Sylvester) and number 92 (Mike Slack). **MF**

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Excellent turn out for the kart club

DESPITE coinciding with the Easter weekend, Llandow Kart Club enjoyed its biggest turnout of the 2014 season so far at its April meeting, boosted by the arrival of no fewer than 28 drivers for round two of the Bambino Kart Club's national tour.

Sadly, the weather did not follow the trend set across the first two rounds of the season, but the mix of rain and cloudy conditions could not dampen the enthusiasm on track.

The massed Bambinos – from all parts of England and Wales - were split into three groups for the day's proceedings, with all drivers 'competing' against the clock to better their respective lap times in three eight-minute 'heats' followed by a final.

Awards were presented to the first 10 places, with medallions for the rest. Llandow regulars Ella Stevens, Nathan Browning and Max Hall faced strong competition, but finished well in the standings, while Cwmbran resident Caleb McDuff was followed throughout the day by Sarah Lawrence and a cameraman from slFirst Magazine. Caleb is deaf and hopes to progress to F1 through karting. slFirst Magazine is online with a report, photographs and a film of Caleb at Llandow.

Outnumbered for once, the combined Cadet classes still managed a 21-strong entry, with Honda, Comer and IAME all represented. As he had in March, IAME runner Shay Keough led the field home in the final, having shared heat honours with Ethan Rees, who took second in class in the main event, with Zach Arthur completing the podium.

A hard-fought Honda class eventually went the way of Joshua Martin, who led double heat winner Harry King across the line in the final. Both drivers finished in the overall top three, sandwiched between Keough and Rees, while third-placed Honda runner Oscar Ferguson completed the top five.

It was another strong weekend for the Ferguson family, with brother Stuart having claimed the opening heat, before finishing fifth in class behind Jack Fordham in the final.

Comer silverware was claimed by Max Fenlon, who had shared heat wins with Conner Kearney and Jakob Chamberlain earlier in the day. Kearney and Chamberlain duly finished second and third in class, with Shayne Clarke fourth overall.

Five familiar faces made up the Honda Junior class, but proceedings were dominated by Kristian Prosser, who continued his strong start to 2014 with an unblemished record. Patrick Hill provided the closest thing to opposition, with four second places on the day, while third spot was fought over by novices Jack Bligh, Alex Wilkins and Sofia Nardone. Sadly, a DNF denied Bligh a shot at the podium in the final, allowing Wilkins to join Prosser and Hill in the top three.

With a packed schedule limiting track time, the Junior TKM, Rotax and Minimax runners were combined for the weekend, producing a 15-kart spectacle. TKM honours eventually went the way of Alex Rees, but not before Jack Barber and Yousuf Ashraf (2) had shared the head victories. Barber claimed second in class in the Final, with Ashraf completing the podium.

Junior Rotax was a little more one-sided with Rob Ellis claiming three victories from four races, with only an exclusion blotting his copybook.

That misdemeanour allowed David Spiller to edge heat two victory over Ceran Sokhi, but Ellis would not be denied in the main event, leaving Sokhi to beat Spiller to the line for second spot.

Former Cadet frontrunner Ethan Ling came out on top in Minimax, having earlier shared heat honours with Riley Phillips, who duly took second spot ahead of Jem Hempworth in the Final.

Senior Honda's resurgence nearly made it into double figures, but one name – that of Nathan Read – dominated the results sheets through the three heats. When it mattered most, however, Read found opposition from Danny Griffiths, with the LKC regular claiming his second final in as many months by just 0.79secs. Cristiano Nardone completed the podium, ahead of Monty Gorringe and Chris Lipscomb.

There were 10 runners on track in Senior Rotax, where Josh Gray appeared the man to beat after claiming victory in each of the three heats.

Unfortunately, when it came to the race that mattered most, the frontrunner found himself demoted to third spot as Kasey Watson and Zach Jones fought over victory, eventually being separated by just 0.25secs. Tom Stride and Dilip Singh completed the top five.

Round four of the 2014 championship takes place at South Wales Karting Centre on Saturday and Sunday, May 17/18, in parallel with the annual Welsh Kart Championships.

RESULTS:

BAMBINO - 1. Harley Keeble (Birel), 2. Luke Hilton (Tonykart), 3. Tristan Thorpe (Tonykart), 4. Oakley Keightly (Zip), 5. Aiden Neate (Zip), 6. Curtis-Rohun Stewart (RK/Birel)

7. Jacob Burgess (Zip), 8. Maximus Hall (Tonykart), 9. Freddie Spindlow, 10. Jack Page (Tonykart).

CADET HONDA: 1. Joshua Martin (BRK), 2. Harry King (Project One), 3. Oscar Ferguson (Project One).

CADET COMER: 1. Max Fenlon (RK Birel), 2. Connor Kearney (Zip), 3. Jakob Chamberlain (Zip).

CADET IAME: 1. Shay Keough (Zip), 2, Ethan Rees (Zip), 3. Zach Arthur (Zip).

JUNIOR HONDA: 1. Kristian Prosser (7Kart), 2. Patrick Hill (Wright), 3. Alex Wilkins (7Kart).

JUNIOR TKM: 1. Alex Rees (Jade), 2. Jack Barber (Jade), 3. Yousuf Ashraf (Jade).

JUNIOR ROTAX: 1. Rob Ellis (Kosmic), 2. Ceran Sokhi (Kosmic), 3. David Spiller (Alonso).

MINI MAX: 1. Ethan Ling (CRG), 2. Riley Phillips (Kosmic), 3. Jem Hempworth (CRG).

SENIOR HONDA: 1. Danny Griffiths (MS), 2. Nathan Read (7Kart), 3. Cristiano Nardone (7Kart).

SENIOR ROTAX: 1. Kasey Watson (CRG), 2. Zach Jones 3. Josh Gray (Tonykart).

BEST NOVICE: Maxwell Melia (Honda Cadet), DRIVER OF THE DAY: Ethan Ling (Minimax).

CL

Jimmy lands Duncan Putter prize!

JIMMY MULLEN of Royal North Devon Golf Club was the winner of this year's Duncan Putter at Southerndown Golf Club.

The 20-year-old England International from Bideford in Devon recovered from a shaky first round of 76 to post scores of 70, 67 and 69, giving him a four-round total of 282, three shots ahead of Irish International Eugene Smith of Ardee Golf Club.

This year's field was the strongest in the 56-year history of this prestigious tournament, with all four home countries looking to get practice on the Southerndown links before this summer's Home Internationals.

But conditions were difficult on both days of the event, with the wind providing a testing challenge for the competitors. Only eight sub-par rounds were carded in total, with four of these coming from Welsh golfers.

Last year's winner, Tim Harry (Vale Resort), showed his class by shooting 67 in round three, but recent injury has restricted his winter practice and he struggled to match this score in the other three rounds.

Jimmy Mullen receives the Duncan Putter.

Former winner Ben Westgate (Trevose and Southerndown) managed a 69 in round two, while Gareth Evans (Wrexham) clearly preferred the morning starts with two rounds of 69 before falling away on both afternoons.

The winner, Jimmy Mullen, is clearly a young man with a great future in golf. He made his mark in 2013 by qualifying for the Open at Muirfield and will no doubt turn professional at some stage. But if you want to see one of the stars of the future you will probably have the chance to see him in action again at Southerndown in the Home Internationals from August 11-15. Make a note in your diary!

Winner: Jimmy Mullen – 282; 2nd: Eugene Smith - 285; 3rd: Adam Chapman – 286; 4th: Stuart Grehan – 288.

The best Welsh performance came from Ben Westgate who finished in joint fifth place.

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Software Update	£95
Dealer Specification Servicing:-	
CBS Brake Fluid	£35
CBS Oil Service	£95

BMW 3 Series / Z3 / Z4

Basic Oil Change	£65
Front Brake Pads	£99
Runflat Tyres	£90 each
Dealer Specification Servicing:-	
CBS Brake Fluid	£35
CBS Oil Service	£110

RANGE ROVER SPORT / DISCO

Basic Oil Change	£70
Front Brake Pads	£145
Transmission Flush	£115
Industry Std Service	£135
Dealer Specification Servicing:-	
Minor Service (45k)	£185

BMW Mini

Basic Oil Change	£60
Front Brake Pads	£75
Clutch	£250
Dealer Specification Servicing:	
CBS Brake Fluid	£35
CBS Oil Service	£95

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BMW 5 Series

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Front Brake Pads	£135
Clutch	£450
Transmission Flush	£115
Software Update	£95
BMW Diagnostic Scan	FREE

JAGUAR XF

Basic Oil Change	£70
50K Service	£205

Prices shown are typical of the cost. Price will vary depending on age of car and the type of oil required. For example Transmission Fluid depends on the model of transmission in your vehicle. Prices shown represent the smaller engine in the model series and or a typical cost. Written estimates available on request. Spare Keys and Remap at prices shown in red is only available to existing servicing customers. Free Code Scan Terms Apply, If we fix the car then no code scan fee applies

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Pride in the name of Tom at Cowbridge RFC

LAST Sunday at Cowbridge RFC saw an evening of celebration for a special person.

What started as an idea for a few friends, hurting badly due to the loss of their friend, to play some rugby and share a beer, grew into something quite fantastic.

Thoughtful messages made on social media about the event brought friends from long ago and far away to the club. There was only one name on everyone's lips – Tom Clarke.

After the game, the club was filled with friends and family, with much laughter as stories and tales of Clarkey were told, that must have had his ears burning.

Pride was the unanimous feeling of everyone there, pride in knowing such a great guy. Our thoughts remain with Tom's wife and family.

A minute's silence in memory of Tom was held before the game against Abercwmboi last Wednesday when Cowbridge gained a bonus point in a 12-19 defeat.

There are two massive games this weekend. First of all the youth take on Taffs Well at Cardiff Arms Park on Friday night at 7pm – the winner will win the league.

On Saturday, the first XV are away at Tonyrefail in a must win game, kick off at 2.30pm; both of the teams would welcome as much support as possible for these vital games.

Finally, many thanks to the bar staff, for their hard work on Saturday night at Rob and Sian's party, and then on the Sunday as mentioned above.

RV/RK

Under-8s on form at Exiles' Festival

COWBRIDGE under-8s players, coaches and families paid their second visit to the London Irish Minis Festival, hoping for another good result after last year's victory in the Shield final.

After an action-packed day at Chessington World of Adventures, the players were delighted to receive their new tracksuits and shorts back at the hotel ready for the tournament the following day.

Team 2 began their fixtures first, putting on an excellent second half performance to gain a 4-4 draw against Farnham, with tries coming from Josh Canning, Paddy Whitestone and Ollie Gale (two).

They were unlucky to concede tries in the last few minutes of their games against London Irish and Guildfordians, despite good tries from Joe Funtek, Charlie Berkley Smith, Henry Davies and Josh.

However, Team 2 finished their group matches on a high, with a 4-2 victory against Chipstead. Paddy inspired them to victory, scoring two tries and setting up another for Ollie, with Will Brennan putting the victory beyond doubt.

Team 1 faced Teddington in their opening game, which was honours even at 6-6, with the Cowbridge tries coming from Sam Jackson, Osian Bruce (two), Harry New and James Lord (two).

They then faced the home team, London Irish, who gave them an early introduction to contact rugby in a fierce encounter.

Cowbridge got an early lead after a powerful Henry Whitehouse run set up Osian, and they valiantly sustained it throughout the game, despite three players coming off injured.

With further tries coming from Ioan Phillips, Joe Arentsen, James L and Sam Jackson, the final score was 5-4 to Cowbridge.

Team 1 narrowly lost their next match against Guildfordians, conceding three unanswered tries in the second half, after taking the lead with a James L score, two from Sam J, continuing his superb tournament performance, and one from James Collingridge. Despite Osian scoring in the last seconds of the game it was a 7-6 defeat.

The boys knew they had to win their last game to reach a final and they rose to the occasion, defeating Chipstead 9-6 in style, with all players involved in creating and scoring the tries, which came from Joe Davies (two), Harry New, Ned Rees, James C, Osian (two) and Sam Sheppard (two).

Team 1 then took to the field against London Welsh for the Plate final. They were cheered on not only by parents, coaches and the rest of the squad, but by the 'Cow' bridge cheerleaders, sisters of the players looking resplendent in their cow onesies and in fine voice!

The boys did not disappoint, putting on a magnificent display of what can only be described as champagne rugby. The approach of direct running and quick offloads, demonstrating superb team work, led to a well deserved 8-4 victory.

Harry New led the way with four tries, with the other scores coming from Joe D, Osian and Sam J (two).

It was a pleasure to watch the boys receive their medals and the trophy. The coaches and families are very proud of the way the team conducted themselves both on and off the pitch, thus concluding another successful season for Cowbridge under-8s.

PS

Cowbridge bowls round-up

THE weather again played its part with our lady bowlers playing only one of their two scheduled matches.

This was a friendly away at Murch, which they lost 28-43, losing on all three rinks, with two close games.

Skip Shirley Wilkinson's rink with Helena Snelling, Janet Morton and Joan Bradley only just lost 12-13, and on the rink of Linda Wilson, Caryl Davies, Sandra Collin and skip Sue Flower, they only lost 11-13.

Skip Joy Woolford's rink with Phyllis Price, Dorothy Pritchard and Shirley Dunsworth lost 5-17.

The ladies match at Millwood was cancelled because of rain and will have to be played within three weeks as it was their first league match of the season.

The men played their Carruthers Shield match at Penarth Windsor in glorious sunshine. This is what bowling is all about!

We lost 66-80 in a most enjoyable and competitive game with only one winning rink, which was skip Steve Dickens with Clive Pritchard, Rob Lewis and Guy Morton, and they won 17-12.

On Skip Norman Wilkinson's rink, in a really good close game; we just lost 18-20, and with Norman were Ron Frayling, Bryan Hole and Mike Bradley.

The rink with Charles Sanders, Len Taylor, Brian Williams and skip Roger Barwick only lost 13-19, but on skip Dennis Snelling's rink with Terry Dunsworth, Gerwin Watkins and Colin Wilson, they lost 18-29.

Our next Carruthers Shield match will be at home to Barry Plastics. The ladies have a Cowbridge Challenge Shield match at Porthcawl and a friendly at home against Pentyrch.

NJW

Under-13s pipped in Cup semi-final

COWBRIDGE under-13s' rugby season came to an end on Sunday with a hard-fought losing semi-final in the Blues Cup away against a very strong Pontypridd pack.

The games between Ponty and Cowbridge in this age group have always been close and the boys knew they would be in for a good game.

Ponty approached the game with a clear and simple game plan, to use their much bigger pack and starve the Cowbridge backs of any ball.

They used the line-out, the driving maul, gained penalty after penalty and used the line out again. They executed this game plan very effectively.

During the first 10 minutes Cowbridge struggled to get their hands on the ball or out of their own half. Ponty continued with the game plan and were unlucky not to open the scoring with their number 8 knocking the ball on over the line, following a brilliant last ditch tackle by Ben Jones, the Cowbridge flanker.

However, from the resulting drop out 22, Ponty opened the scoring with a great run by their outside centre.

Cowbridge kicked the drop out long, but did not chase the kick in a line. This allowed the centre to gain some pace and side step the Cowbridge defence. With only scrambled defence to beat the centre went over for the game's first try.

From the kick off Cowbridge managed to get their hands on the ball and showed how dangerous their backs could be if only they could get more of the ball. Cowbridge tried to keep the ball in play and keep the ball away from the touchline, however, with the penalty count growing, Ponty persisted with their game plan.

However, from a rare loose kick by the Ponty fly half, R Williams gathered the ball just inside his own half and made some hard yards into the Pontypridd half. I Williams went blind and a couple of simple passes put Sam Green, the Cowbridge left winger, clear.

Green showed great pace to score in the corner without a hand being laid on him.

Just before the halftime whistle, Pontypridd were awarded another penalty but this time decided to take a kick at goal. The half-time score was Pontypridd 8, Cowbridge 5.

The second half followed the same pattern as the first, with Ponty continuing with their rolling mauls and Cowbridge continuing to give away penalties.

The Cowbridge backs were living off scraps of possession and when they managed to get their hands on the ball, unfortunately the ball did not stick in their hands, resulting in a number of knock-ons at crucial times.

Cowbridge defended incredibly well and showed enormous pride in continuing to keep the considerably larger Ponty pack out. Time and time again the Cowbridge pack managed to scramble the ball clear from deep inside their own 22.

However, with time and energy slowly leaving Cowbridge, the Ponty pack once again created a rolling maul and the number 8 managed to score the game's decisive try to make it 13-5.

This try seemed to knock Cowbridge confidence, but to be fair to the boys they did not give up and continued to improvise with the little ball they could gather.

With minutes remaining, Cowbridge were throwing the ball around and trying to break through the Ponty defence but to no avail.

The boys have had a fantastic season, played some brilliant rugby and scored some incredible tries. However, their superb defence, work rate and team ethic stands out. Well done boys, we are all very proud of you.

On behalf of the boys, parents and supporters, we would like to offer our sincere thanks to Stav and Kevin for all the hard work and commitment they have shown this season, it is much appreciated.

GJ

Bowl heartbreak for Llantwit Major RFC

IN the biggest game of their history, it appears that the nerves got the better of Llantwit Major's players against league rivals CRC Caerdydd at a warm Millennium Stadium.

It was a huge occasion not only for the club but for the whole town as well. It had been a long journey to get to the final but one that everybody knew we deserved to be on to take our place in the final.

As with the league games against CRC, this was a close and hard fought game that left no one in doubt that the standard of the rugby in Division Four South East was of a good one.

CRC opened the scoring with a couple of penalties from their fly half before they raced over for a try wide out which was converted to give them a 13-0 lead, and there may have been fears in the stand and on the touchline that a rout may be on the cards.

The message from the coaching staff was clear, keep calm, don't rush things and go back to basics. It was the trusty boot of Ryan Evans that kept Llantwit in touch with CRC, knocking over two penalties to eat into the lead.

It appeared that the half-time team talk did the trick as it was Llantwit who came out firing on all cylinders and finally started to put their game plan into action and started making huge inroads to CRC's defence.

Following Ryan Evans' two penalties Llantwit found themselves deep in CRC's half and phase after phase of battering by the forwards saw Dave Taylor cross the whitewash (quite literally, as he came up from the bottom of a pile of bodies with the white paint smothered all over his head, much to his delight when he saw it on the big screen) which was referred to the TMO who shortly confirmed that a try was scored. Ryan Evans added the conversion.

The only scoring from CRC was a further penalty to take the score to 16-10 with 15 minutes to play. Llantwit Major threw everything they had at CRC but they managed to hold out attack after attack for the score to remain the same. Llantwit just couldn't find the little chink in the armour of CRC.

It is safe to say that CRC deserved their victory and were marginally the better side on the day; they are a club that has past experience of playing at the national stadium, having won the Welsh Brewers trophy some time ago. The experience will stand us in good stead should we make it to the final again.

Llantwit Major used all seven replacements on Sunday to ensure that all the squad had a taste of the action on Welsh rugby's theatre of dreams.

It was a bitter day for club captain Shaun Shea who, early in the first half, came off with a leg injury that has since been confirmed as a broken leg, although the mark of the man is that he walked off the pitch with the broken bone.

It was pleasing to note that the official man of the match was our very own Marcus Pearce who was a threat every time he had the ball and was also immense in defence.

Outstanding work was also done by young Sam Booker who appeared to be everywhere on the field.

The Llantwit Major players and coaching staff will take positives from this experience and build on it for next season in the hope that we can get to the final again.

NE